

Beattitudes of Wedded Bliss

Blessed are the poor in pocket,
For their love does not depend on money.
(1 Tim. 6:9-10)

Blessed are they in the morn,
For then they see their mate before make-up.
(Prov. 31:30)

Blessed are those who speak,
For they grow together daily.
(Deut. 24:5)

Blessed is he who hungers and thirsts for her cooking,
For he shall get filled.
(Prov. 31:14)

Blessed are the punctual,
For they relieve their mate's worries
(Prov. 31:11)

Blessed are the pure in start,
For they have saved themselves for the honeymoon.
(Heb. 13:4)

Blessed are the space-makers,
For all of us need time alone with God
(1 Cor. 7:5)

Blessed are they which are ridiculed for their happiness sake,
For your joy has been made clear to all.
(Prov. 5:18)

Ron Roberts

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road
Mooreville, IN 46158

March 26, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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**Success is not
measured in
money, but in
Heaven**

Announcements

Our Gospel meeting with Dan Starr has been changed to April 9-12. This is a Sunday through Wednesday meeting. Make plans to attend.

The meal list will soon be posted and fliers will be available to share with friends and neighbors.

We will conclude our Wednesday night study on Overcoming Sin this week. Our lesson is on the subject of indifference. Shouldn't you be there for that one?

The business meeting granted a raise to the Roberts. We wish to thank all of you for your continued support. We have been made to feel very welcome in Mooreville.

Marynell spent the greater part of last week with Zeke. He is doing pretty well. We thank you for your prayers and your concerns.

What Ever Happened To Repentance?

We read in Luke 3:10 *And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?* The people were responding to John the Baptist's teaching. They recognized his preaching on *repentance* (3:8) meant that they were required to do something. The term "*repentance*" means to turn around. It is a change of heart that produces a change in behavior. John referred to this change in actions as the "*fruits of repentance*".

Had John been a modern preacher of the Calvinist persuasion he would have said, "you don't do anything. You are saved by grace alone. God has picked certain of you to be saved, and He will control you. Others He has determined to be lost, and He will reject you no matter what you do." But that is not how John answered the question. 11 *He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.* One thing God requires for us to change is our selfishness. We should share our blessings with others. We are to love them as we love ourselves (Matt 22: 39).

12 *Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?* 13 *And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.* The publicans were tax collectors. They had a reputation of overcharging the Jewish people and keeping the excess for themselves. John was telling them not to be dishonest in business, not to steal, and not to be covetous. They should not abuse their position or their people.

If John was like most denominational preachers he would have told the publicans they did not need to do anything. He would tell them they access the grace of God by belief alone. They are saved by believing and once they are saved they would always be saved regardless of what they do.

14 *And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.* The soldiers had more power than the publicans. They could use their strength with the force of the government behind them. The Jews were a conquered people, and these Roman soldiers knew they were in charge. It could have been advantageous to John to get on their good side. He could have told them you do not need to make any changes. But that is not what he told them. They too needed to repent.

There are Christians who also need to understand *repentance*. This is not only a requirement for becoming saved. It is also required for staying saved. The members of the church who believe Baptism is the end of their duties are sorely mistaken. They believe "*once saved always saved*" also, but it only comes after you have been baptized. No, baptism washes away the past sins. Future sins and current sins need to be removed through *repentance* and prayer (Acts 8:22). *Repentance* was in John's message (Matt. 3:2). It was also the first thing Jesus preached (Matt. 4:17). It was the first requirement Peter called for in order to obey the Gospel (Acts 2:38). How could any today teach that it is no longer necessary? Why would anyone believe you do not have to do anything to obey God?

Ron Roberts