



Whispering Hills

CHURCH OF CHRIST

GROWING TOGETHER

VOLUME I, ISSUE III

January 15, 2023

SUNDAY Gathering Times

Bible Class 09:30 AM
Morning 10:30 AM
Evening 5:00 PM

Leadership

Elders:

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Our Religious Conviction

God chose to save the world by sending His Son, Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (Rom 10:17).

Those who choose to listen and obey the Gospel message SHALL be saved (Ac 2:38).

God adds them to the church of the Bible, which His Son is coming for because it was purchased with His Blood (Ac 20:28; 2 The 1:7-10).

HOW TO BE SAVED

1. Hear (Jn 6:45; Rom 10:17)
2. Believe (Jn 8:24; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent (Lk 13:3, 5; Ac 2:38)
4. Confess (Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9, 10)
5. Baptized (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21)

WELCOME

WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE

Our goal is to worship God according to His Will just as the Christians in the first century did (Ac 2:42).

Please ask us a question about the reason why we worship the way we do (1 Pet 3:15).

Also, please take the time to fill out an attendance card today (in the holder facing you) and give it to one of our members acknowledging your presence with us.

5 Ways to Trust God More

1. Take God at His word. He doesn't lie or break promises.

God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good? Numbers 23:19

2. Acknowledge He knows us & has a plan.

You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Psalm 139:16

3. Believe that God can turn a mess into a message.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28

4. Nothing is too difficult for God.

The LORD has made the heavens his throne; from there He rules over everything. Psalm 103:19

5. Recall past testimonies of how God worked in your life.

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12:11



Continuous PRAYERS

Walter Simon, Mack Cloud, Ron Forge, Pat Harper, Patricia Skinner, Don Zeno



General

Greg Owens (Bro Owens' brother)
 Michael Porter (Sis Owens' brother)
 Jessica McCants (Bro Ramsay's daughter)
 Wesley Pollard (Bro/Sis Simon's brother-in-law)
 Baltimore Hernandez (Bro Spataro's brother-in-law)
 Miguel Graves, Jr (friend of Bro Owens, Jr)
 Christopher White (Sis White's son)
 Chantez Thomas (Bro Williams' cousin)
 Claudia Springer (Sis Williams' sister)
 Zaira Arteaga (Bro Ramsay's daughter friend)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

- [1] Our **PRAYERS** should echo loud and clear on a daily basis for God's **GRACE, MERCY** and **LOVE** by taking nothing for granted continuing to live up to His Expectations and Commands through **OBEDIENCE** (Mt 7:21-23)
- [2] **BIBLE STUDY** (**S**unday, 15 **J**anuary @ 09:30 **A**M): Book of **H**ebrews 3:1 - 19
- [3] **L**adies **B**ible **C**lass (Every **W**ednesday in **J**anuary @ 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM): conducted virtually [**D**uncanville]
- [4] **F**ederal **H**oliday: **M**artin **L.** **K**ing Day (**M**onday, **J**anuary 16, 2023)



Mark Sikes

[17]



**FOOD FOR
THOUGHT**

Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit Matthew 5:3

The Bible shares in the words of Jesus speaking to His Disciples, “**Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**” (Mt 5:3). His Teachings (Mt 5:3-12) are called the beatitudes. **Blessed** means happy. Jesus is saying those who have these characteristics will be truly happy. Happiness does not come by seeking to be happy, but by doing God's Will. **Poor in spirit** means those destitute of the proud, haughty, arrogant Spirit of the world; to be humble and contrite. This is the one realizing one's own helplessness and put one's whole trust in God. When one realizes one cannot save oneself, one is ready to trust in God and obey Him. This is the type of person God wants in His Kingdom, The Church.

Of all the ways for Jesus to begin His Mountain Top Speech, this may have been the most shocking to His Listeners: “Blessed are the poor...”. Perhaps, they would be asking: “Blessed are the rich makes a lot more sense to me!” For all of the cultural changes having occurred throughout the centuries, one thought has always been consistent — If you are poor, than you are not blessed at all! And yet, that is exactly where Jesus begins this speech. Also, it is where He Expects us to begin in order to obtain entrance into His Kingdom. However, He is not talking about being poor in wealth. Jesus says, “Blessed are the poor in spirit...”. This is definitely an idea needing to be explored even further. How can one be poor in Spirit?

Take King David as an example (2 Sam 11:1-27). That David, certainly, was not poor in Spirit. There are other ways of describing him: arrogant, entitled and puffed up. He demonstrates this by his refusal to go out to battle with the other kings (2 Sam 8:1-14; 10:1-19). He was waking up in the evenings and last of all - he took the wife of one of his mighty men as his own; thus, committing adultery. To further his “puffed up” Spirit, David proceeded to do what he could to cover up his sin by having Uriah (the husband of Bathsheba) killed. After this, he married Bathsheba, which would have made him look like a hero in the story! At no point is there any humility in David's Spirit (2 Sam 11:1-27), but only pride and entitlement.

Notwithstanding, the David (2 Sam 121-31) is different. Once he is confronted by the prophet Nathan about his sin, he is no longer puffed up. Instead, he humbles himself before his God. Regarding this time in his life, David writes “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise” (Psa 51:17). Once he humbles himself, he makes a very good observation: God does not want us to continue in arrogant willful sin, He Wants us to humble our hearts giving Him Our Broken Spirits. This is where God is able to work with us best, when we have humbled ourselves and opened our hearts to the need for change (Psa 10:17; 29:23; Isa 57:15; Mt 23:12; Jas 4:6, 10; 1 Pet 5:5, 6).

So it is natural that Jesus begins here (Mt 5:3). If you want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, you must start by recognizing how broken in your Spirit is from the sin(s) you have committed. Jesus can make your Spirit whole, but you must be willing to obey Him (Ac 5:29, 32; Rom 6:16; Tit 3:1; Heb 5:8, 9).

There are many doors into the life of blessedness. It does not depend on the outward possessions, such as worldly goods or high birth. There is no soul of man, however illiterate, lonely or poor, to not step suddenly into this life of beatitude and begin to drink of the river that makes glad the city of God. Our Lord *lived* this life before He Described it. He has opened the doors for us. If you cannot enter by the gate of purity, can you not come in by that which is reserved for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness (Mt 5:6)?

Note the *passive* side of the blessed life. To be *poor in spirit*, that is, to be lowly in one's self-estimate; to be *meek*, not always interested in one's rights; to *mourn* for the evils of one's own heart and for the sin and the sorrow around; to *hunger and thirst* after Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. These dispositions do not purchase blessedness, but to cultivate them is to be blessed. On the *positive* side are mercy, purity, peace and a desire or willingness to suffer all things for Christ (Php 1:29).

God is love, and if you would love, you must abide in Him and He in you. Love is better than miracles, gifts or philanthropy (1 Cor 13:1-3). It is the parent of all that is most delightful in the moral sphere (1 Cor 13:4-7). Love is the best of all because it is eternal. All else will perish. But when we are in touch with the reality of things, love will be all in all (Eph 4:2, 15; Php 1:9; Col 1:4; 2:2; 1 The 3:12).

