

The Divine Bliss Now

**Wednesday,
August 10, 2016**

Introduction

- **How to live in the present moment**
- **Anticipation of future bliss was never meant to minimize impact of living now!**
- **Being light in a dark world is our mission**
- **Christian “blessedness”, joy and bliss is never presented in the New Testament as escapism**

ENCOMPASS BOTH FUTURE AND PRESENT DIMENSIONS OF BLESSINGS

- This is borne out with the verbs “is” and “shall”
- “*Chairos*” is much different than “*Chronos*”

BASED ON NATURE OF GOD'S BLESSEDNESS

- **Hidden under tradition and layers of rabbinic interpretation**
- **This is why the “crowds” are significant in Matthew**
- **Christ is recognized as “blessed” in many New Testament passages**

OFFER A BLESSEDNESS INDEPENDENT OF OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES

- Anticipation of reward also provides hope and blessing
- This kind of blessedness and standing before God transforms the human predicament and human experience
- Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount focus on the human heart

THE BEATITUDES OFFER A THREE-FOLD BLISS

- **God's supply and answer to humanity's deepest needs=being, becoming and growing**
- **The bliss of actually living out the Christian life daily, no matter what!**
- **There is an ironic, and paradoxical bliss found in suffering**

Conclusion

- **THE BEATITUDES...**
- 1. ENCOMPASS BOTH FUTURE AND PRESENT DIMENSIONS OF BLESSINGS
- 2. THE BEATITUDES ARE BASED ON NATURE OF GOD'S BLESSEDNESS
- 3. THE BEATITUDES OFFER A BLESSEDNESS INDEPENDENT OF OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES
- 4. THE BEATITUDES OFFER A THREE-FOLD BLISS