



How Can I Be Blessed?

R.C. Sproul

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The Bible is clear that true blessing is only found in the presence of God and in His kingdom. Some of the Bible's clearest teaching about life in the kingdom of God is found in the Sermon on the Mount. It is there that we find the Beatitudes, a series of promises of blessing. *In How Can I Be Blessed?*, Dr. R.C. Sproul explores these sayings in order to clearly explain what they mean for Christians and to hold up the glorious promise of life in God's kingdom.

How Can I Be Blessed? Details

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From Reader Review How Can I Be Blessed? for online ebook

J Layne says

As I read this, RC Sproul passed away six days ago, Dec 14, 2017.

This book utilizes the Beatitudes in showing how a believer can be blessed.

Naomi says

Pretty good, short e-book on The Beatitudes

Steve Campbell says

This is a short but powerful introduction to the meaning of Jesus' teachings that have come to be known as the Beatitudes. In his engaging style, Sproul briefly unpacks the meaning of each Beatitude in a convicting and encouraging way.

John Yelverton says

The title makes you think that you're about to read a "Health and Wealth Gospel" tract, but it's actually a brief examination of the "Beatitudes" and the actually blessings which Christ promises.

Bill Pence says

In this booklet of the late Dr. R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions series he states that a benediction is a good statement, an announcement of blessing. What was referred to as a benediction in the Old Testament was sometimes called a "beatitude" in the New Testament. In this booklet he looks at a famous and beloved portion of the New Testament that speaks about what it means to be blessed. The passage is known as the Beatitudes, and it is part of the great sermon preached by Jesus known as the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5. The Beatitudes are so called because they begin with the word blessed.

In this booklet, the author looks at each Beatitude. Below are takeaways I had from each Beatitude:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- For Jesus Himself was lowly, and He promised those who would forsake the riches of this world and seek the face of God that His Father would deliver them. To them is given the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

- Some see it as merely a promise of comfort to those who experience grief. Others see a more spiritual dimension to it, specifically, a sense of grief or mourning over one's sin.

- There is also that mourning of regret for what one has done, whereby, when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, we are profoundly saddened and moved to sorrow for having offended God.

- Jesus talked about suffering that comes as a direct result of being identified with Him.
 - That's the ministry of God to His people. He promises to heal their broken hearts and restore their souls.
 - The reason we are blessed in mourning is because God's people are promised the consolation of Israel.
- Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
- To be meek is not to be weak; in fact, to be meek in the biblical sense necessitates a certain kind of inner strength that is exceedingly rare.
 - The opposite of meekness is an arrogant, rough handling of power and authority.
 - The man who is meek before God and has that inner strength that enables him to be gentle before men will not be a violent man. This quietness of spirit will enable him to be temperate. A self-controlled or temperate person is not given to binges of excess, but lives within restraints. Ultimately, the one who is meek submits himself to the authority and rule of God. Rather than trusting in his own abilities and authority, the meek one trusts that God will safeguard him and will fulfill His promises.
 - Meekness does not preclude boldness, but it does preclude arrogance. The Christian who is meek is bold in being obedient to the call of God on his life. Ultimately, to be meek is to be submissive to the rule of our King.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- Being righteous is not all that complicated; it means doing what is right. We have to have a passion to do what is right.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- It should be easy for us to be merciful, because we live every moment of our lives on the basis of God's mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- The thing that keeps us from having the vision of God now is our impurity, our sin.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- The heart of the message of Christianity is a message of peace. The supreme peacemaker is Christ, because the supreme role occupied by Jesus in the New Testament is that of our Mediator. He mediates the estrangement between us and God.
 - Just as He is the Son of God and is the peacemaker, so those who are His, who imitate His office of peacemaking at an earthly level, will be called sons of God.
 - The best way to avoid conflict regarding the gospel is to water it down in order to make it more palatable to people.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- In this last Beatitude, Jesus said that those who are persecuted for a just cause—persecuted for Jesus' sake—are going to receive the kingdom as their inheritance.
- The author writes that the Beatitudes are God's prescription for how we can be blessed. They tell us what pleases Him.
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William says

I liked this book. Ultimately, its answer to its titular question is just the Sermon on the Mount, but what follows is a good commentary on that sermon.

Fred says

A rather dull and pedestrian exposition of the beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mount. There's nothing particularly interesting or extraordinary about this book, or anything that you can't easily get elsewhere in better, more interesting ways.

Once again, and this is becoming a pattern with these "Crucial Questions" books from Dr. Sproul, there is very little practical application of the principles presented here.

Disappointed.

Tim Suffield says

The title turns out to be clickbait.

This is a meditation on the beatitudes, which is fine as far as it goes, but it fails at answering its central questions because:

- i) The introduction doesn't reframe the question as 'the wrong one' if that's what Sproul is thinking
- ii) The discussions of each of the beatitudes fail to be practical. The application simply isn't there. Like a beginner preaching, he tells us things that are true, but fails to tell us how we need to react to this (what we should do/think/feel differently), or how Jesus might form these character traits in us.

It also wasn't written in a very lively style, and what looked like clarity often didn't turn out to be. What exactly does 'meek' mean? When am I 'poor in Spirit'? Good questions, lacklustre answers.

Asha Francis says

Great little book

I loved this book. It was easy to read with clear concepts based on solid reformed theology. It gave me good food for thought and lifted my spirits. A quick and useful read for any Christian.
