

Constitution for Christianity I

(MATTHEW 5:2-11)

Mat 5:2-11 and he opened his mouth and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

I. BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT (V.3)

- A. The poverty of spirit declared blessed in 5:3 announces man's essential initial recognition of his need for God.
 - 1. He was speaking of those who realize their spiritual deficiency.
 - 2. We must look to the good and perfect Giver to provide what they need and cannot provide for themselves (James 1:17).
- B. "him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at (God's) word" (Isa. 66:2).
 - 1. Recognition and appreciation of one's need for God.
 - 2. This is the key to developing a saving love, and love is the key attitude opening the door to "the kingdom of Heaven" (1 John 4:19; 1 Cor. 13:1-3; Matt. 22:37-39).

II. BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN (V.4)

- A. This is the properly reaction to our sins and to those of others.
 - 1. Those who mourn experience a godly sorrow which leads to repentance.
 - 2. Genuine repentance is a change of will
 - 3. 2Co 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation, a repentance which bringeth no regret: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."
 - 4. You cannot serve God and Man (Matt. 6:24).
- B. Repentance leads us to to salvation; and only in salvation can the comfort of God be realized (2 Thess.2:10, 17; 1 John 2:3).

III. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK (V.5)

- A. Often misunderstood, meekness is not at all weakness, but rather, a noble attribute which might be described as "power under control."
 - 1. The meek are humble in response to **God's will**, in response to **man's treatment**, and in response to **life's adversities**.
 - 2. Those possessing this virtue are best able to enjoy earth's blessings without becoming enamored with them. And, since God is their Father, His earth is theirs in the best possible sense and measure (Matt. 6:33; Phil.4:19).

IV. BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS (V.6)

- A. As the powerful and relentless physical drives of hunger and thirst compel one to seek food and water, the compelling desire to please God by conforming to His Standard of righteousness drives those who know and are properly grateful for God's love (Ps. 119:172; Rom. 1:16-17).
- B. The only true way of expressing our love for our Creator is the pursuit of righteousness, by their faith working through love (1 John 4:19; 5:3; Gal. 5:6; John 14:15).

V. BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL (V.7)

- A. Mercy is more than pity; it is "actively compassionate."
- B. Mercy prevents one's pursuit of righteousness from becoming self-righteousness. God's extension of mercy to men is a manifestation of His love.
- C. Men who love souls will extend mercy to their fellow man (cf. Matt. 7:1-2).

NOTES:

New Testament Christianity

(I CORINTHIANS 2:2)

Introduction: 1 Cor 2:2 – “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” Christ is the center of our plea (not social, political, or economic). Isa 64:6 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

The plea from Christ is both apostolic and authority:

• Acts 8:5, 12, 35-38 – READ

I. JESUS IS THE DIVINE SON OF GOD:

- A. The distinctive attributes of deity are ascribed to Him.
 - 1. Omnipotent – (Jn.1:3; Heb.1:3, 10)
 - 2. Omniscient –
 - a. John 2:24-25 “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”
 - b. Col 2:3 – “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
 - 3. Omnipresent – (Mt.18:20; 28:20)
 - 4. Eternal – (Jn.1:1, 2, and 14)
- B. There are only two positions to be taken regarding Jesus.
 - 1. He was simply mere man – Why in 2000 years has his greatness not been equaled.
 - 2. Son of God – (Isa.7:14; Jn.3:16; Mt.3:17; 1 Tim.3:16)

II. HIS WORD IS THE ABSOLUTE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY:

- A. The question of authority, not interpretation, lies at the heart of all religious division.
 - 1. Matt 21:23 –
 - 2. Without man’s creeds denominationalism would fall. Col 1:18 – “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
- B. Jesus challenged all former spokesmen and asserted His authority with the Father’s approval.
 - 1. Mt.5; 28:18-20; Phil.2:5-11
 - 2. 1 Peter 3:22 – “Who is gone into heaven,

and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

3. Mt.17:5; Heb.1:1, 2

- C. Rejection of this authority is fatal to the rejecter. (Jn.12:48; Acts 3:22, 23; 2 Jn.9; Mt.7:21-26)

II. HIS CHURCH AS THE ONE TRUE CHURCH:

- A. We hear so much about man made denominations that the world, HAS THE WORLD FORGOTTEN that Jesus built one church. (Mt.16:18; Acts 20:28)
 - 1. It is divine
 - 2. Therefore not all religious orders are right (Mt.15:13)
- B. His church is the God ordained means of religious unity.
 - 1. Eph.1:22, 23; 4:4-6; Gal.3:26-27; Eph.2:14-16.
 - 2. Only in the church can one find reconciliation with God (Eph.5:23-25)
- C. Everything about the church (worship, work, organization, name) is in the New Testament.

III. HIS GOSPEL PLAN FOR SALVATION IS THE ONLY PLAN:

- A. Because of man’s sinful condition and the worth of the soul, Jesus made atonement for sin. (Ezek.18:3; Rom.3:23; Heb.9:22)
 - 1. Not by accident (Mt.26:28; Eph.1:7)
 - 2. His work is sufficient because of his sinless life (Rom.3:24, 25; Heb.9:28)
- B. While His work was for all that does not make salvation unconditional. (1 Jn.2:2; Eph.2:8, 9; Heb.5:8, 9; 2 Thess.1:7-9)
- C. The conditions are simple and suited to the gospel facts
 - 1. I Cor.15:1-4
 - 2. Rom.6:1-6
 - 3. Rom.10:9, 10;
 - 4. Acts 2:38
- D. Men question the will of Christ when they question baptism in the plan.