

God's Light to the World! – Matthew 5:14-16

How are you doing with all the changes brought on by this COVID 19 pandemic? Do we dare believe that God is bringing about good even in this difficult time?

The Apostle Paul did not say in Romans 8:28, that everything “is” good, but that God is bringing about good in everything - for those who are “in Christ”.

God's glory & the light of the gospel shine the brightest in the darkness of night!

We are called to be light, illuminating the darkness by reflecting God's light!

Nighttime comes, storm clouds roll in, but will we be as constant as the moon, shining brightly through the night as we reflect the light of the Son?

“You are the light of the world!” What does that mean for us today?

“A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.” We have a position of great influence!

“Nor do people light a lamp & put it under a basket, but on a stand, & it gives light to all in the house.” Jesus didn't light a fire in us for our own sake, but to light the way for others to come to the knowledge of the glory of God.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

How do we reflect this light & point people to the glory of God? **Matt. 5:2-12**

The **Beatitudes** - This is not a list of things we need to “do”, but a list of who we are called to “be” because of what God has already done for us in Christ!

Vs. 3 - “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“You're blessed when you are at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.” – The Message//Remix by Peterson

COVID 19 has reminded us of our need for God! We are not **self-sufficient!**

Vs. 4 - “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

“You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.”

COVID 19 has revealed more clearly our self-centeredness & our need to **repent**

Vs. 5 - “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

“You're blessed when you're content with just who you are - no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.” 1 Tim. 6:6-8 – Godliness w/ contentment is **great gain!**

COVID 19 has helped us see, & appreciate, the things that **matter most** in life!

Vs. 6 - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

“You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.”

COVID 19 revealed that what we've received in **Christ** is of greatest importance!

Vs. 7 - “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”

“You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourself cared for.” What an amazing paradox!

COVID 19 has given us great opportunity to **love & serve** others like Jesus!

Vs. 8 - “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

“You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.”

COVID 19 has given us a lens by which to see **God working** in amazing ways!

Vs. 9 - “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

“You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.” We are brothers & sisters called to be one!

COVID 19 has in many ways brought us **closer together** & united our cause!

Vs. 10 - “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

“You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.”

COVID 19 has put our **allegiance** to Christ in the forefront and has challenged us to submit ourselves to His reign above all else!

Vs. 11 - “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.”

“Count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me...”

COVID 19 has brought about **opposition**, but we serve the one who has overcome this world! God is, & will continue, to bring good out of this time!

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