

The word BLESSED means HAPPY or WELL-FAVORED. It is another word to describe a truly better life. Using your own Bible, find the following verses which tell who are blessed and supply the proper words below:

1. Matthew 5:3. Blessed are the _____.
2. Matthew 5:4. Blesses are those who _____.
3. Matthew 5:5. Blessed are the _____.
4. Matthew 5:10. Blessed are they who are _____ for righteousness.
5. Romans 4:7. Blessed are they whose _____ are forgiven.
6. Revelation 14:13. Blessed are the dead who die in the _____.

Please complete, detach, and mail this question sheet back to the return address below. After grading it we will return it to you with Lesson Four. We commend you for your interest in learning more about Jesus.

To continue learning more about JESUS—THE WAY, complete your contact information below and mail to:



**P826 Liberty Pike
Franklin, TN 37064**

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
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**Find out more about the
Christians meeting at Parkway
on our website!**

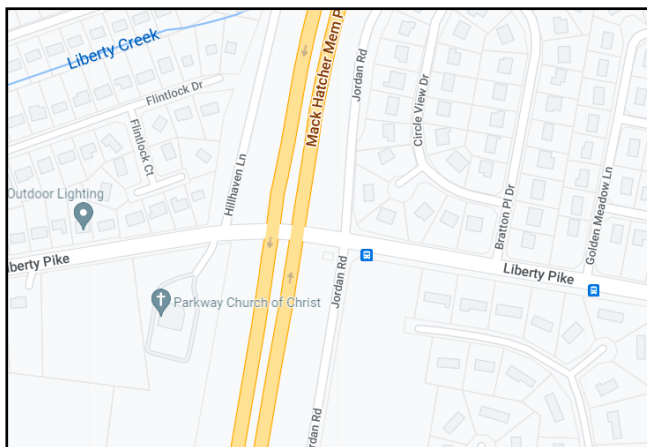
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The Christians at Parkway Welcome You!

OUR LOCATION

**826 Liberty Pike
Franklin, TN 37064**



OUR SERVICES

**Sunday Bible Study
9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday Bible Study
7:00 p.m.**

CONTACT US

**615-595-9818
info@parkwaychurchofchristfranklin.net**

LESSON THREE

JESUS, THE WAY TO A BETTER LIFE

A common goal for many people is “The good life.” This dream is not new. It has been the desire of every age -- of teachers and philosophers, of kings and commoners. As in every other good thing, to find a truly better life, Jesus is the way.

JESUS CORRECTS MISCONCEPTIONS

The good life is probably summed up best in the word HAPPINESS. Yet, when we think of a better life, we usually think of material prosperity, pleasure, and popularity. This is because we suppose that these are the things which bring happiness. Jesus rejects this supposition:

“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.” (Luke 12:15)

“Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.” (Luke 6:25-26)

Wealthy and famous people struggle with unhappiness like everyone else. Nevertheless, many of us continue to seek fortune and fame, and we are often disappointed when we think God does not provide what we want. If Jesus offered these things as the way to a good life, we could not be assured of happiness.

JESUS ROOTS OUT THE PROBLEM

God endowed humans with the good life in the very beginning of time. But Adam and Eve lost it when they sinned. With sin came guilt, fear, pain and death. Sin is still the spoiler. Jesus said:

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.” (Mark 7:21-23)

Is it not true that most of the unhappiness you have known is traceable to just such sins as these? It is only in turning from sin that we can hope to find true happiness.

“For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking guile; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.” (1 Peter 3:10-11)

Only by studying the law of Christ can we recognize sin.

Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4)

Only by following the perfect example of Jesus can we avoid sin.

... Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, nor was guile found in His mouth.” (1 Peter 2:21-22)

Imagine a life without guilt, without fear, without the anxiety that always attends a life of sin! Here, indeed, is peace which surpasses all understanding. (Philippians 4:7)

JESUS TEACHES US TO SEEK NEW GOALS

The goal of an unhappy world is earthly treasure. Jesus says:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroys and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven....” (Matthew 6:19-20)

Men are eager to receive, but reluctant to give. Jesus says:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

Many people consider it a symbol of the good life to be served. Jesus says:

“... but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve....” (Matthew 20:26, 28)

The goals set by the world are goals which many can never achieve. Achievement does not insure happiness, and those who fail to achieve them are made even more miser-

able by their failures.

But when our goals are changed, we can be content without the things most people consider essential, because they are no longer the things we are seeking. Our contentment and happiness come with attaining Jesus’ goals, and success in these is within the reach of all. All can store up treasure in heaven, all can give, all can be servants. Those who seek to follow Jesus’ example and teaching can enjoy a happy and better life with or without possessions, prestige, or popularity.

But, wonder of wonders, there is MORE!

JESUS GIVE US WHAT WE DO NOT EXPECT

Once we learn to seek Jesus as the way to a better life, Jesus provides us an unexpected portion of the very things we need each day. Jesus said:

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.” (Luke 6:38)

“For whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 14:11)

HOW DOES JESUS DO IT?

We may never know all the ways by which the Lord fulfills His promises for a better life. But one way is through the sheer wisdom of His instructions. Knowing people as He does and loving humanity as He does, Jesus asks of us only those things that are good for us; and He forbids only those things that are harmful.

Our health is better when we live the pure life that Jesus teaches. We are better off financially, for we are better workers and we no longer have to pay the expensive cost of sin. Family life is better as we learn to think first of others. And regardless of the problems and troubles we still must face, we face them with Jesus and with the hope of heaven.

LESSON THREE ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS.

Use the quotations in the lesson or find the verses in your own Bible from which to answer the following questions:

1. The things that defile a man and make him unclean come out of his _____. (Mark 7:21-23)
2. If one would love life and see good days, he must turn away from _____. (1 Peter 3:10-11)
3. The lawless person, in transgressing God’s law, commits _____. (1 John 3:4)
4. _____ committed no sin. (1 Peter 2:21-22)
5. Treasures on _____ may be destroyed by moth and rust or stolen by thieves. Jesus taught us to lay up treasure in _____. (Matthew 6:19-20)
6. Jesus said that _____ is better than receiving. (Acts 20:35)
7. Jesus said one who desires to be great must be a _____. (Matthew 20:26)
8. The _____ worry about what they will eat, drink, and wear. We are taught by Jesus to seek first God’s _____ and _____, and all these things will be supplied. (Matthew 6:31-33)
9. If we _____, it will be given to us (Luke 6:38)
10. One who humbles himself will be _____. (Luke 14:11)

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE REMAINING FOUR LESSONS!

