

Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses - April 2003

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light — Eph. 5:8

Are You A Blessing To Your World?

The scriptures for this study are referred to as the *Beatitudes*, (*blessings*) that Jesus presented in Matthew 5:1-16. These verses show a gradual, step by step process culminating with our favorite Lighthouse verse (v. 16), “*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

This month we look at the fourth blessing — being filled with righteousness. What is this righteousness and how does it apply to us in our daily walk?

While it may not be obvious, this passage of Scripture actually defines the ongoing relationship that God desires to have with Christians. This verse reveals the constant, intimate, never-ending interaction that is absolutely necessary for anyone who wishes to walk closely with God. It also gives us some key principals we must understand if we are to be an effective Lighthouse. *Let Him Shine! — KC*

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

Matthew 5:6 NKJV

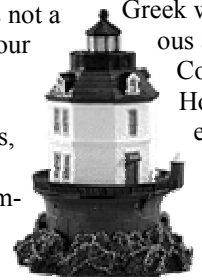
What Is Our Condition?

This Scripture implies that we have a need for righteousness. But this is not a righteousness we can achieve on our own, nor is it a righteousness of works to be traded for salvation.

Righteousness here is Godliness, pure and simple. This refers to God’s righteousness, which encompasses justice and mercy and compassion and holiness, not the righteousness measured by the world’s standards.

What Jesus is discussing here only applies to believers. But a Christian must have two specific attitudes before the blessing can be given. The first attitude needed is a hunger for righteousness.

The Greek term used here for hunger is *peinaō* and it means famished, or to



crave. This is the hunger of someone who has been without food for an extended period. Someone who is weak and needs nourishment just to survive.

As Christians, we are to desire God’s righteousness as much as a starving person desires food. And interestingly, the Greek word means the hunger is continuous and never ending.

Compare this to our need for food. How often each day do we experience hunger pains? How often do we feel a need for nourishment? That is the concept Jesus is speaking about here—that we should have a hunger for His righteousness in our lives just as

often and just as intensely as we have a hunger for food. Therefore, we should go to Him many times every day, and He alone will be able satisfy our need.

The second attitude is a thirst for righteousness. Thayer says this thirst means to “suffer as those who painfully feel their need.” This can happen when Chris-

tians have been engaged in spiritual battles, or have been so active and busy doing “Christian” works that they have depleted their reserves, or they may just be sweating about their problems too much!

But it can also be a desire for refreshing — a longing for that cool, pure enjoyment that comes from a deep drink of cold water. This is the image Jesus is giving, one of replenishing and rejuvenation.

What Is Our Blessing?

The blessing in this verse is that “they shall be filled.” The Greek term, *chortazō*, means fully and completely satisfied.

And the amount of blessing received is ever increasing as we continue to hunger and to be filled and to thirst and be filled. God supplies our need for more righteousness daily as our hungering and thirsting continues throughout our life.

He meets our needs through the constant, ongoing doses of Grace given to help us meet the challenges and opportunities of each day in a Christ-like manner.

God’s Word is often referred to as “living waters” and “water of life.” In His Scriptures are found the refreshing springs which will guide us, strengthen us, and cleanse us. When we thirst after righteousness, dwelling for a few moments on His Word can, like a cold drink on a hot day, replenish our spent reserves and strengthen us to continue forward.

What Is Our Response?

Jesus teaches us in this verse that the relationship God desires with His children requires that God be active in meeting their constant, ongoing needs. But, if like rebellious teenagers, we do not believe we have a need for Him, then the relationship is reduced to emergencies only.

It is very important that Lighthouses develop a spiritual hunger and thirst that is even stronger than our physical needs. But, since we cannot do that in our own power, Christians must ask God to instill those desires within us. Ask Him to give us a great hunger and thirst to be righteous as He is righteous. Ask Him to instill in us this need for righteousness throughout each day. Ask Him to stop us in our tracks and make us seek Him and His “filling” so that we can meet the challenges and opportunities He brings into our lives.

Dear fellow Christian, ask God to fill us with His righteousness so often every day that others may begin to see more of Him in us. That we may behave in more Christ-like ways every moment of every day. And that more people would be drawn to Him as His light shines brighter in us every day. Remember that as a Lighthouse, our light shines in direct proportion to our hunger and thirst for His righteousness, and His filling of those needs.

Let Him Shine!

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 1st is the National Day of Prayer. Many churches and local groups will be sponsoring times of prayer and praise. With the war in Iraq, tensions with North Korea and others, the economy, and many other issues looming before us, this would be a good time to pause, seek His face, and thank Him for His blessings.

Hoffmantown Missions Fair

Hoffmantown Church is holding a Missions Fair May 3-7 with over thirty ministries represented and events are scheduled for every day / night. Learn about missions, visit the exhibits and stop by LightShine Ministries’ booth. Call 828-2600 for more info.

“Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven.” Matt 5:16