

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

What is meant by “blessed”? What kind of blessedness?

Blessed G3107 *makarios*

Here we’re going to accomplish two things at the same time:

1. we’re going to get a good understanding of what Revelation says, so we can read it and meditate on it confidently
2. we’re going to learn a principle of interpreting Revelation: This book of prophecy brings together and gives the final word on truths raised throughout the rest of the Bible.

-G3107 *makarios*; Hebrew word *esher*

-means to be in a truly “happy” condition; for things to be truly good with you

-there is a place in the New Testament where this word is used, that helps us understand the concept Romans 4:1-8

-there are people who know they need to be in God's favor, and they think that somehow they can work to earn that favor;

-they can do good deeds for their fellow men; they can do religious works like going to church, getting baptized, giving money in the offering

-that was very common among both Jews and Greeks when Paul was writing Romans; it also is very common among people who go to church here in our place and time

-they think that it is like working for someone here on earth; you do the work they require, then they owe you your pay, your wages; you do the work that God requires, then He owes you a place in heaven or blessings here on earth

-but such a person is not blessed; he is not in a truly happy or good condition; because a person actually cannot be justified in God's sight by any amount of doing good works; the sins a person has committed cannot be covered over or made up for by any amount of good works he might try to do

-but there are people who know they need to be in God's favor, and understand that they cannot gain that favor by their good works

-so they trust God; they believe God; they have faith in His promises to save sinners

-they believe in God to impute righteousness to them without their having to earn it by their good works

-they trust in God's grace, that He will forgive their iniquities, that He will cover their sins, that He will not impute their sins to them

-such a person is blessed; he is in a truly happy condition, because God does justify sinners through faith, not by works; He forgives sinners by His grace, not by their earning or deserving it

-so, the one who trusts in something he can do to save himself is not blessed; but the one who trusts in God to save him is blessed

This passage in Romans is based on Psalm 32; it quotes the first two verses of it. Let's look there for more understanding of what it is to be "blessed."

Psalm 32

verses 1-2 David writes this as a man who is blessed in that his transgression is forgiven, his sin is covered; he then goes on to describe how he came to be so blessed

verses 3-4 David was not in a happy situation; he was not blessed

- he kept silence about his sins

- he was groaning all the time

- he felt like his bones were growing old

- he felt like someone in a drought, like someone with no water in the heat of summer

- this was because God's hand was heavy on him, convicting him of his sins

- he was not blessed; he was not in a truly happy condition; things were not good with him

verse 5 David came to be blessed

- he stopped trying to hide his sin from God, but acknowledged his sin; he confessed his transgressions to the Lord; in a word, he repented

- God forgave him his sins

verses 6-7 There is more to David's state of blessedness: God saves Him from trouble

- when he prays to God, God saves him even from troubles like a flood

- God is his hiding place, the One who preserves David from troubled

verses 8-10 There is yet more to David's state of blessedness: God teaches him and makes him promises in which he can trust

- as it says in verse 8

- do not be stubborn, like a mule

- instead, trust in the Lord, and find yourself surrounded by God's mercy

verse 11 There is more to David's state of blessedness: he has joy!

- so strongly does David feel that he is blessed, he calls on all who have been counted righteous by God's mercy to rejoice as he rejoices

- be glad in the Lord

- rejoice

- shout for joy

So, the blessedness taught here in Psalm 32 and Romans 4 is about

-a sinner, previously miserable about his sinful condition before God, now being forgiven his sins and being counted righteous in Jesus Christ, not by any works of his, but by God's grace and mercy

-such a person, now counted righteous and pure in heart, prays to God for help in time of trouble, and knows He can trust God to help him

-such a person learns more and more to obey God in all things, and to trust in Him

-such a person is full of joy, and is able to call on others to rejoice with him

We who read and hear the book of Revelation, and keep its word, are blessed.

-we will not think that we don't need to be saved, or that we can save ourselves by good works

-we will confess our sins to God, trusting in God's promises, in His grace, in His mercy, for forgiveness of our sins, and for being justified before God, all through Jesus Christ

-we will learn to pray to God, and to trust Him to help us through all troubles

-we will learn to stop being stubborn, and obey all God commands, trusting in Him

- we will find ourselves surrounded by God's mercy

-we will have joy, and find ourselves glad in the Lord, and calling others to rejoice in Him with us

Matthew 5:3-12

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

It could be that you are essentially proud

- the happiness of your life makes you think all is well between you and God

- the things you have in this life, such as physical strength and material wealth, give you a feeling of well-being by which you feel that everything you need, you already have, God already has given you

- that is not a state of blessedness

It could be that you are not essentially proud, because by God's grace you have been made to see your need of everything from Him. But temptation to think pridefully, to sin in the area of pride, still troubles your life as a Christian.

They that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep them, are blessed in that the words of this prophesy are a great help to a person, to help him understand how poor he is spiritually.

Revelation 3:17-21 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

If you hear those words, and keep them, you will be poor in spirit. Being poor in spirit is a state of blessedness, because those who are poor in spirit will find that the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Poole: as they will from it be comforted, concerning all the sufferings of the church, and people of God

5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are they which do 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 the children of God.

10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.