**The blessing of Christian Character – Matt. 5:3**

Matt. 5:3 – Blessed are the poor in spirit… God blesses …NLT

Blessed = happy, a condition of spiritual happiness

**The Christian life is a life of blessedness**

1. The Christian life is a life of spiritual enjoyment, contentment & joy! Regardless of the circumstances of life – 1 Pet. 1:8 – though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory
* Blessedness = great joy
* Blessedness = inexpressible glory
1. God blesses believers with spiritual blessings – Eph. 1:3 – blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
2. God blesses believers as they live in holiness &obedience

“You are blessed if you do them”- John 13:17

1. Christian blessedness is heaven begun on earth – rom. 14:17 – for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

**The believer sees heaven by faith, and tastes it by joy, this is blessedness**

**The Christian life is a life of blessedness by the knowledge of God’s blessings**

“If there is any blessedness in knowledge, it must be in the knowledge of blessedness”

1. God blesses the doer of the Word of God – James 1:25 – but one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does

**The Christian life is a life of blessedness by faith in Christ that brings God’s blessings**

1. God blesses the faith of believers in Christ - John 20:29 – Jesus said, because you have seen you believe, blessed are they who did not see and yet believed
2. God blesses with the Holy Spirit those who believe - John 7:38 – he who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water

**The Christian life is a life of blessedness by experiencing the blessings of God**

1. The blessing of forgiveness of sin – Rom. 4:7 – blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven and whose sins have been covered
2. The blessing of God’s reward for endurance in the Christian life – James 1:12 – blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him
3. The blessing of God from the new birth - 2 Pet. 1:4 – for by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust

**The completeness of Christian blessedness is waiting in heaven**

1. Rev. 14:13 – blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them
2. Heb. 4:9 – there remains a rest for the people of God
3. Rev. 19:9 – blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb
4. Rev. 20:6 – blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has not power
5. Rev. 22:14 – blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates of the city.