

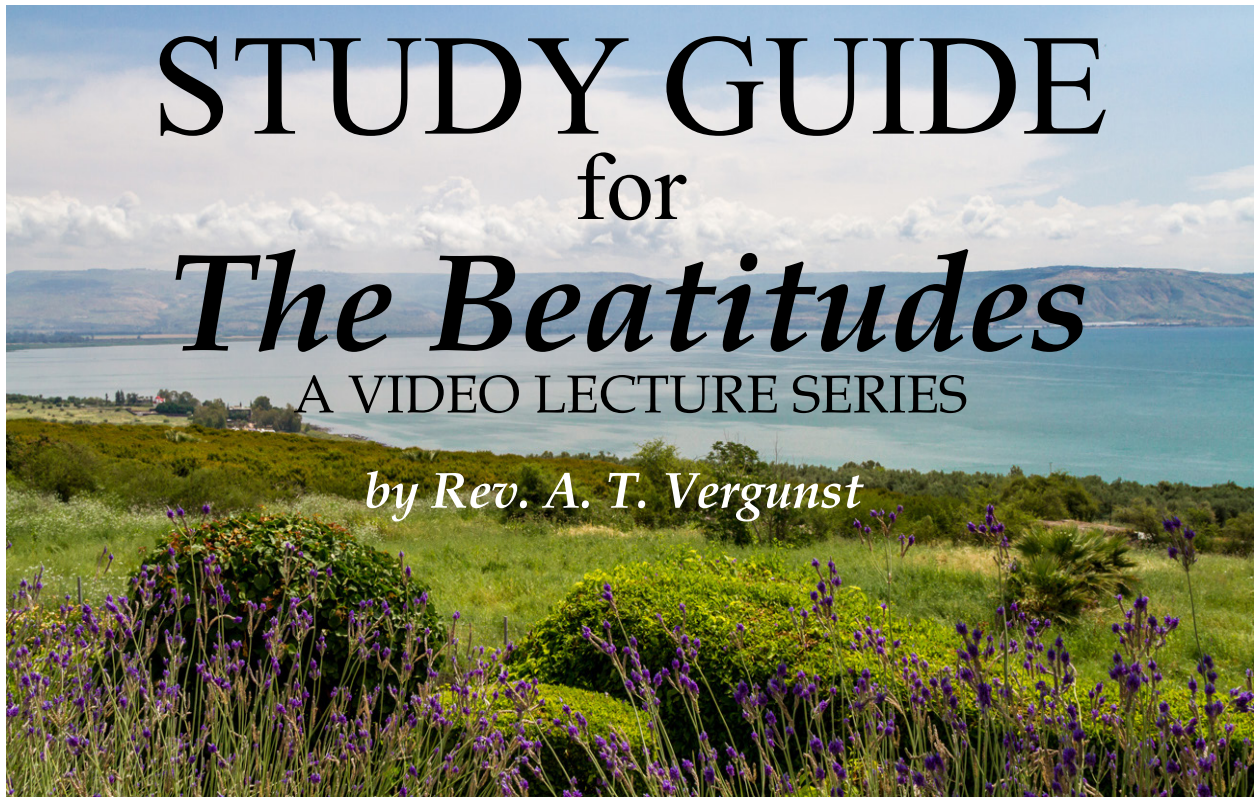
STUDY GUIDE

for

The Beatitudes

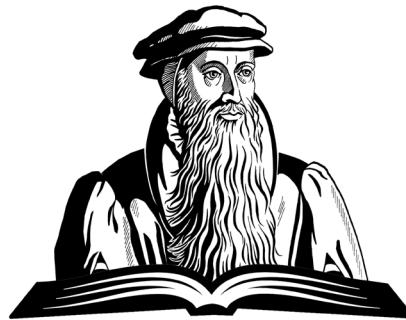
A VIDEO LECTURE SERIES

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst



Lecture #10

Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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STUDY GUIDE FOR
The Beatitudes

10 Lectures

by Rev. A. T. Vergunst

1. A General Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount
2. A General Introduction to the Beatitudes
3. Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit
4. Blessed Are They That Mourn
5. Blessed Are the Meek
6. Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger and Thirst After Righteousness
7. Blessed Are the Merciful
8. Blessed Are the Pure in Heart
9. Blessed Are the Peacemakers
10. Blessed Are They Which Are Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake



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The Beatitudes

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Lecture #10

Blessed Are They Which Are
Persecuted for Righteousness' Sake

Scripture Text

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

—Matthew 5, verses 10, 11, and 12.

Key Points

1. A brief recap of the first 8 Beatitudes.
2. The persecution experienced by the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. No one has ever loved more, given more, sacrificed more, and done more good. But he was hated, slandered, forsaken, and innocently condemned to death.
 - b. If you follow the Lord Jesus, you will suffer persecution.
 - c. Every church and believer will be known by the persecution endured—Martin Luther.
 - d. Self-examination is required, whether one is a true Christian or not.
3. Persecution defined and explained.
 - a. Many Christians suffer persecution in the world today for faith in Jesus Christ.
 - b. Examples in the Bible.
 - c. Some causes of persecution which are not included in this Beatitude.
 - d. Several types of persecution for righteousness’ sake.
 - e. Examples of faithful acts which can lead to persecution.
4. Reasons for comfort in persecution for righteousness’ sake.
 - a. This suffering evidences genuine faith.

b. Persecutions can promote the growth of godly character.

1) Like the fire that purifies the gold.

c. It keeps the Christian's heart focused on heaven, on Christ.

d. Persecution is one of the best ways to evangelize.

5. The command to rejoice!

a. For great is your reward in heaven!

b. Evidence from Scripture.

8. God's kingdom people are declared blessed by the King, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Review Questions

1. In what ways did the Lord Jesus himself suffer persecutions for righteousness' sake during his earthly ministry?

2. Many times, the Lord Jesus taught that there would be a cost for being his disciple. Please give some examples of this from the Scripture.

3. What are different types of persecution that can be experienced for righteousness' sake? Is it only being martyred or imprisoned?

4. What does the Apostle Peter tell us about persecution in 1 Peter 4:15?

5. Why is it that faithful Christian ministers can especially expect persecution?

6. How is persecution for righteousness' sake evidence of true Christian faith? Can it ever be that a true Christian will not suffer persecution?

7. What are some comforts and reasons to rejoice for those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness?

8. Why is it said that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church? Please give examples of this truth from the history of the church in our time.

9. In Matthew 5, verse 12, what does the Lord Jesus mean when he declares, “for great is your reward in heaven?”

10. Please give some examples from the Bible of how the Apostle Paul suffered for his faithful ministry. Show how he was glad and rejoiced in such persecution.

Personal Applications

1. Martin Luther taught that every true church and every genuine Christian will be known by the level of persecution they endure. Have you ever experienced any level of persecution for your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? What is a chameleon Christian?

2. Perhaps you are a child of God who is enduring persecutions for your faith in Christ at this moment. What comforts can you derive from this Beatitude? How has this lecture series helped you to rejoice in your sufferings?
