

Study Lesson Number: 29

THE BEATITUDES - continued:

The Beatitudes are EIGHT roads to perfect happiness. They are the standards or rules Christ sets up for His followers. They are just the opposite of the standards of this world.

Those who live by the standards of this world are really living pagan lives, even though they may be Catholics in name. Only those who try to live their lives according to the beatitudes are really Catholics in practice.

— STANDARDS OF CHRIST —

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, that is, those who live the humble condition of the poor.
2. Blessed are the meek.
3. Blessed are they who mourn.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after justice, that is, not after the things of this world, but the grace of God and all that goes with it.
5. Blessed are the merciful.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, that is, those whose hearts are clean of desire for pleasure and desire only God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers.
8. Blessed are they who suffer persecution.

These cause a certain amount of suffering, but they lead to great happiness even here on earth, and to heaven afterwards.

— STANDARDS OF THIS WORLD —

1. Be a successful man, that is, one who makes a lot of money.
2. Get things your own way.
3. We have a right to enjoy life.
4. Love the things of this world.
5. Get even with those who hurt you.
6. Seek pleasure of all kinds.
7. Am I my brother's keeper?
8. Avoid all suffering, and if it comes, complain about it.

These may give a certain amount of pleasure, but they lead to unhappiness even here on earth, and to hell in the next life.

Are there any other virtues besides the theological virtues of FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY?

Besides the theological virtues of FAITH, HOPE, AND CHARITY there are other virtues called MORAL VIRTUES.

Why are these virtues called moral virtues?

These virtues are called moral virtues because they dispose us to lead moral, or good, lives by aiding us to treat persons and things in the right way, that is, according to the will of God.