

“DESCRIPTIONS, NOT PRESCRIPTIONS!”

(Matthew 5:1-14)

INTRODUCTION: *Some of the most misunderstood words in the Bible . . .*

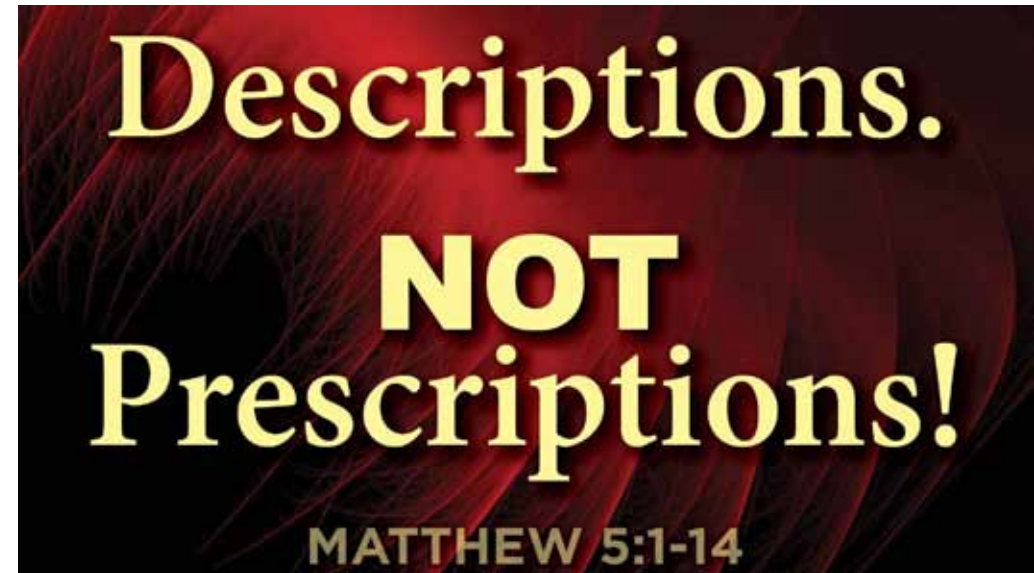
I. THE BEATITUDES SEEM TO BE A LIST OF “IF-THEN” *PRESCRIPTIONS*

- A. This makes the Christian Faith a religion of payoffs
- B. Often we live the Christian life grudgingly with the hope of getting a payoff from God
- C. At this point the Beatitudes snap closed on us like a trap
(Matthew 5:48)

II. IF WE READ THE BEATITUDES LIKE A *SAYING ON A WALL POSTER*, WE'RE ALSO IN TROUBLE

- A. We try to live in two worlds: “Sunday religion” & “real life”
- B. The beatitudes offer only two choices:
be blessed by the world’s standards or by God
- C. Beatitudes as *prescription* OR *wall poster* give us no hope.

(continued on next page)



III. THE BEATITUDES ARE *DESCRIPTIONS* OF THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST

- A. A sinner who knows Who is their Saviour
- B. Christ Jesus Who spoke the beatitudes, is the Beatitude
- C. **Confirmands, be ready:** Persecution can be the outcome of the beatitudes *(Matthew 5:12)*
- D. Persecution, death, and victory is where the beatitudes begin!!
(1 Corinthians 15:55-57)
- E. The beatitudes **describe the life of those who have life in Jesus' name now...** even when the world around us can't see it!

CONCLUSION: *Jesus' eternal promise:* **Blessed are You!**
(Revelation 2:10)