

**THE CULTIVATION OF CHRISTIAN VIRTUES AND THE BLESSINGS**

1. The poor in spirit:	The Kingdom of God	Matthew 5:3
2. Those who mourn:	They shall be comforted	Matthew 5:4
3. The meek:	They shall inherit the earth	Matthew 5:5
4. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:	They shall be filled	Matthew 5:6
5. The merciful:	They shall obtain mercy	Matthew 5:7
6. The pure in heart:	They shall see God	Matthew 5:8
7. The peacemakers:	The sons of God	Matthew 5:9
8. Persecuted for righteousness' sake:	The kingdom of God	Matthew 5:10

**A SURPRISING CHALLENGE**

1. Opposition may arise
2. Persecution is possible
3. Forms of persecution
  - a) Reviling
  - b) False accusations
  - c) Physical hurt
4. Positive Attitude enjoined
  - a) Rejoice
  - b) Reward in heaven

**WHAT ARE VIRTUES?**

1. Qualities
2. Things of great worth
  - a) They may not be inherent
  - b) They can be cultivated
3. What do they reflect?
  - a) Genuine faith
  - b) Character

- c) Spiritual maturity

#### **WHY ARE THEY EXTOLLED?**

1. Reflection of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself
2. Rare character
3. A contrast to the practice of formal religion
  - a) Keeping of traditions
  - b) Outward show of religion

#### **WHAT IT TAKES TO CULTIVATE THESE VIRTUES**

1. Great personal effort
  - a) Time
  - b) Effort
  - c) Perseverance
2. God's Involvement
  - a) The work of the Holy Spirit
  - b) Grace
  - c) Power to change