

The Beatitudes: The Kingdom of Heaven

- The Kingdom of Heaven is both the beginning and the end of the Beatitudes
- The Kingdom of Heaven is both now and to come.
- Matthew's account of the beginning of Christ's ministry begins "From that time Jesus began to proclaim 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near'"
- The kingdom of heaven involves God's rule over every part of our life (blessed are the pure in heart)
- It involves our lives shining before others: they should see our good works and give glory to God – not us
- We do good works to glorify God not to make us right with God. Christ has already done that. We just put our faith in what He has done
- Even our good works have been prepared beforehand by God (Ephesians 2.10)
- In this life, we will never succeed in keeping God's law perfectly. Only Christ did that
- Christ died to take away our sins
- By God's help, we now live lives of obedience to God, in gratitude, love and desire to see God glorified
- To let God rule in our lives we need to know His word to us. We need to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Colossians 3.16). We need to read His word in the Bible and seek to let it change us.

