

Blessed Are Those Who Repent
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

Introduction:

1. God made this beautiful statement to Solomon, the king of Israel.
2. A brief examination of this statement leads us to reach a conclusion that sounds like a beatitude -- "blessed are those who repent."
3. In our lesson we are emphasizing this important principle.

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST EXAMINE GOD'S STATEMENT IN ITS CONTEXT
 - A. Solomon had finished building the temple.
 - B. At the dedication of the temple, Solomon prayed a beautiful prayer.
 - C. In his prayer, Solomon expressed concern for his people in the future when they sinned (2 Chronicles 6:24-31).
 - D. God responded to Solomon's request (2 Chronicles 7:12-15).
 - E. When God punished His people because of their sin, if they repented, God would bless them in return.
- II. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE FAR REACHING
 - A. They apply to individuals.
 1. In Acts 8 we read about Simon the sorcerer.
 - a. Simon became a Christian (vs.13).
 - b. Later, he wanted to buy the ability to do what only the apostles could do (vs.18-24).
 2. These principles are found in the instructions given in James 5:19-20.
 3. The prodigal son illustrates these principles (Luke 15:11-24).
 4. Concerning individuals, blessed are those who repent.
 - B. They apply to nations.
 1. Nations are doomed that forget God (Psalm 9:17).
 2. Nations who make the Lord their God will be blessed (Psalm 33:12).
 3. Concerning nations, blessed are those that repent.
 - C. They apply to churches.
 1. The church in Laodicea illustrates how the Lord feels toward churches that reject Him (Revelation 3:14-17).
 2. If this church repented, the Lord would bless it (Revelation 3:18-22).
 3. Concerning churches, blessed are those that repent.
 - D. The principles revealed in 2 Chronicles 7:14 are far reaching.

Conclusion:

1. In closing, let us be reminded from 2 Peter 3:9 that God wants everyone to repent.
2. Let us also be reminded from 2 Chronicles 7:14 that the basic elements of repentance include:
 - a. humility (James 4:10)
 - b. prayer (James 5:16)
 - c. seeking God's face (1 Peter 3:12)
 - d. turning from wicked ways (1 Peter 3:10-11).