

# **“Blessed are the Peacemakers”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: Matt. 5:9

- A. The beatitudes are a lesson in faith, teaching us:
  - 1. How faith begins: poor in spirit, mourning, meek
  - 2. How faith grows: hunger and thirst for righteousness
  - 3. How faith matures: merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers
  - 4. How faith is tested: persecution
- B. In over 3100 years of recorded world history, the world has only been at peace 8% of the time or a total of 286 years, and more than 8000 treaties have been made and broken
  - 1. Peace eludes us
  - 2. “Avoiding conflict isn’t peacemaking. Avoiding conflict means running away from the mess while peacemaking means running into the middle of it. Peacemaking means addressing those issues that caused conflict in the first place. Peacemaking can never be separated from justice. They go hand in hand. Peacemaking means speaking the truth in love, but speaking the truth nonetheless.” (Peggy Haymes)
  - 3. “Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.” (Thomas Merton)
  - 4. “Peace is the fruit of love, a love that is built on work and justice. If the human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another.” (Winston Churchill)

## **I. THE MEANING OF PEACEMAKER**

- A. Biblical peace
  - 1. Peacemaker - “eirenoipoios - pacificatory, peaceable, peacemaker”
  - 2. Peace - “Eirene - from a primary verb eiro (to join); peace, prosperity, quietness, rest”
  - 3. The gospel that reunites God and man is called the gospel of peace - Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15
  - 4. That illustrates the Bible use of peace; it is that which brings together persons that are separated from each other for various reasons. It is always accompanied by blessings that enrich both parties
  - 5. Peace is not just the absence of conflict; the absence of conflict does not insure any positive blessing
  - 6. Peace is both relief from war and the receipt of what one needs for a full and spiritual life
- B. A peacemaker is a one who actively seeks to establish and maintain peace
  - 1. He does not create conflicts with others; he seeks to resolve conflict and eliminate hostility, starting with himself
  - 2. He tries to provide what others need for a pleasant, peaceful life; he is a positive force for good and profit for humankind

## **II. A PEACEMAKER'S LIFE DEMONSTRATES PEACE**

- A. Peacemakers are at peace with God - Rom. 5:1; James 4:4
- B. Peacemakers are at peace with themselves
  - 1. Psalm 122:8; Prov. 3:1-2; Col. 3:15
- C. Peacemakers are at peace with others - Rom. 14:19; 2Cor. 13:11; Rom. 12:18

## **III. PEACEMAKING IS GOD'S WORK IN THIS WORLD**

- A. God's peace is manifested in His desire to be with us - Rom. 15:33
- B. God's peace is manifested in His work to eliminate all obstacles to our dwelling with Him - Rom. 16:20
- C. God's peace is manifested through Him giving us the means to find peace - Phil. 4:9
- D. God's peace is manifested in His work to save and preserve us - 1Thes. 5:23
- E. God's peace is manifested in His provisions to fulfill our being - Heb. 13:20-21

### Conclusion:

- A. We must remember:
  - 1. The source of peace is God and His word; we must trust and obey him in order to receive and share peace
  - 2. The enemy of peace is Satan and sin; wherever there is conflict, Satan is having his way
  - 3. Christians reflect peace in their lives both as a quality in themselves and as a blessing they share with others
- B. "This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being a force for good instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle for me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got to hold for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations."  
(G. B. Shaw)