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**“Beatitudes: Blessed are The Peacemakers”**

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**Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.**

The peace that Jesus brought us was not peace in the world or of the world but peace with the Father because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for His people:

* *Eph 2:17-18 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near;* ***18*** *for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*
* *John 3:36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

Jesus promised that we would have this peace. Although we have that peace forever, while we live in the world we will have tribulation:

* *John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*
* *John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."*

Not only do we have that peace with God but God will sanctify us so that our body, soul, and spirit will be kept complete even until the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*1 Thess 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

So for all the above we thank Him and praise Him. This beatitude is for those who make peace in the world and, as disciples of Jesus Christ, Christians will be active in the world spreading the Gospel message of peace with God through Jesus Christ.

It is not always possible for us to be **at** peace with **all** men: *Rom 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*

We will be persecuted by those who hate the message of Jesus Christ as we have seen in a previous beatitude: *Matt 5:10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus promised us persecution:

*John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

Paul told Timothy that living Godly in Christ Jesus will bring persecution: *2 Tim 3:12 And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*

It will not be possible for Christians to have peace with those people who refuse freedom from the wrath of God through Jesus Christ. The truth of the Gospel will even divide families and keep them from peace with each other:

*Matt 10:21 "And brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death.*

So the peacemakers will be involved in bringing the good news of the Gospel to the world and be involved in the bringing of peace between the Father and His children. But in bringing that message to the world those peacemakers will face persecution and will not find peace with those refusing the message.

There is a further avenue for Christians to be peacemakers and that is within the church. We are not to be involved in squabbles within the church but we are to promote peace between brothers and sisters in Christ. One fruit of the Spirit is peace. Gal 5:26 lists three common violations of peace within the family of God that Christians should always avoid. Those are being boastful, challenging one another, envying one another:

*Gal 5:22-6:2 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ***2 3*** *gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* ***24*** *Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* ***25*** *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.* ***26*** *Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.*

Within the family of God we should also be alert to the possibility of restoring a brother or sister who has fallen into some sin and thus restore their peace with God and with other Christians. *Gal 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.*

Within the family of God we should also bear burdens of fellow Christians to further promote peace in the church: *Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.*

From this beatitude we see that only the children of God will be true peacemakers in the world for it is only those who can help carry the Gospel message to the ends of the world and maintain peace within the church. Every Christian is then an active peacemaker in the world, in the church, and in our families. I pray that all of you reading this letter are sons and daughters of God and are then active in bringing His peace.