

A

CHRIST-CENTERED

LIFE

THE KEY

TO

SUPREME HAPPINESS

&

SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY

ED LACY MINISTRIES

A CHRIST CENTERED LIFE

Matthew 5:1-12



INTRODUCTION

I. THE DEFINITION OF “BLESSEDNESS”

- A. The word “blessed” describes a person who is _____ happy.
- B. The word “blessed” describes a person who possesses spiritual _____.
- C. This “spiritual prosperity” is not related to what you possess; but it is directly related to who you possess and who _____ you.

Lamentations 3:24 – “The Lord is my portion.” Says my soul, “Therefore I hope in Him!”

Psalm 68:35 –Blessed be God!

Psalm 72:18 – Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel. Who only does wondrous things!

1 Timothy 1:11 -according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

1 Timothy 6:15 -which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.....

- D. This supreme happiness, which is a characteristic of God, becomes a characteristic of the person who has “the Lord as his _____”.

II. THE DISPENSER OF TRUE HAPPINESS

- A. There is only one dispenser of this “supreme happiness” and soul satisfaction! This happiness is a work of God ‘by the grace of God’ for the _____ of God.
- B. Every true follower of Jesus Christ is called and commanded to manifest these beatitudes in their _____.
- C. Every born again believer is called to manifest _____ of these character qualities.
- D. These beatitudes are a complete picture of the essential character of the born again believer, who is living in a manner that is _____ to his Lord.

John 15:5b –without Me you can do nothing.

- E. By the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God, we can display each of these spiritual qualities in our _____.
- F. These beatitudes are the principles of the King by which He rules in the hearts of His _____.
- G. This “supreme happiness” and “spiritual prosperity” will be a tremendous testimony to the _____ people, within our sphere of influence.

Your life spills over



onto the people around you!

Part I



MATTHEW 5:3

**BLESSED – (SUPREMEY HAPPY) – ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT, FOR
THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.**

1. The word “poor” in the physical realm, describes someone who is reduced to _____ destitution.
2. The Lord Jesus is describing a person who has come to recognize and declare their spiritual _____, in the presence of Holy God.
3. To be “poor in spirit” is the opposite of being rich in pride, self-righteousness, self-reliance and _____ - sufficiency.
4. He recognizes his spiritual poverty to such a degree, that the only thing that he can do is take the place of a destitute, desperate and dependent _____ before God.



5. He realized that he is in desperate need of the :
 - A. The _____ of God – that God would not give him what he does deserve.

B. The _____ of God – that God would give him what he does not deserve.

6. The great tragedy is that the vast majority of people are spiritually destitute, but they don't _____ it.

Church of Laodicea – Revelation 3:17 – “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’ – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.....”

Luke 18:11-14 – The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, “God, I thank You that I am not like other men - extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.” And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner!”

7. This “poverty of spirit” is the first evidence that a converting work of grace has been wrought in the _____.

Luke 15:17 – But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!”

8. The person who is “poor in spirit” is willing to come to the Lord Jesus on _____ terms of repentance and faith.

9. This “poverty of spirit” should be an abiding reality and a continuing disposition, throughout the sanctification _____ of our lives.

Colossians 2:6 – As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.....

A. This person has an awareness in their soul that:

- (1) They have nothing in themselves that they may ‘boast in’.

(2) They have no source of supply in themselves that could produce anything of any spiritual value or eternal significance.

(3) They stand in need of everything from the Lord, to enable them to live the life that God is calling them to _____.

1 Corinthians 3:5 – Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

1 Corinthians 15:9a – For I am the least of the apostles.....

2 Corinthians 3:5 – Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God.....

Ephesians 3:8a – To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given.....

1 Timothy 1:15b – Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

10. We continue to experience and express this poverty of spirit as we walk in the beauty and blessedness of humility before God, as a - _____ of the Lord and His people.

11. God says, “Let this _____ be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.....”. - Philippians 2:5

Philippians 2:3-4 – Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Matthew 20:26b – “.....but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.”

2 Corinthians 4:5 – For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.

12. He that says that he abides in Jesus ought himself to walk even as _____ walked. – I John 2:6

John 5:19b –the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do.....

John 5:30 – “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

John 6:38 – “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

John 8:28b –that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

13. To walk in “poverty of spirit” is to walk in total dependence on the Lord, absolute surrender to the Lord, and complete _____ with the Lord.

14. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled and he that humbles himself shall be _____. – Matthew 23:12

James 4:10 – Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Matthew 18:4 – “Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

James 4:6 – But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

A. If we will purpose to humble ourselves, God will purpose to pour His glory and power into our lives, to be a channel of _____ to others.

B. We must live with the continual realization that we are utterly desperate for His power and are totally dependent on His _____.

15. The precious fruit that grows from the root of “poverty of spirit” will be a personal attitude and expression of Christian _____.

James 4:6b – God resists the proud.....

Proverbs 11:2 – When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.

Proverbs 18:12 – Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.

A. “God gives _____ to the humble.....”

B. The humbling of our soul always brings a positive _____.

Proverbs 15:33 – The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

16. As followers of Jesus we are called to _____ humility, as our spiritual clothes.

Colossians 3:12 – Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;.....

17. He has shown you, O man, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to _____ humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8

Proverbs 29:23 – A man’s pride will bring him low, But the humble in spirit will retain honor.

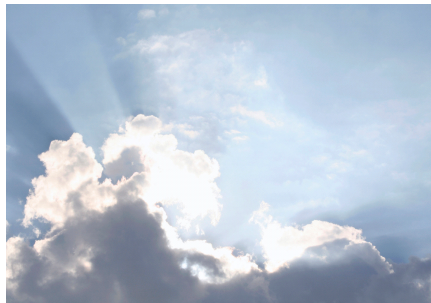
18. When we turn our eyes away from ourselves, and seek His face in His word and in prayer, and sincerely desire to be near the Lord and please the Lord, we are moving toward humility of _____.

19. When we are walking in “humility” we will more clearly see the strengths and virtues of others, as well as our own weaknesses and _____.

Ephesians 4:1-2a – I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness.....

Romans 12:10 – Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

20. We are as needy for sustaining grace to walk with Jesus today, as we were for saving grace when we were _____.
21. For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have _____ confidence in the flesh. – Philippians 3:3



BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT



**THEIRS IS
THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

PART II



Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

1. The philosophy of the world is to forget your troubles; and to avoid facing those things that would cause you to experience _____.
2. The Lord Jesus is not speaking of _____ mourning.
3. The Lord Jesus is not speaking of _____ sorrow.

2 Corinthians 7:10b –but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- A. Worldly mourning occurs when a person mourns only over the _____ of their sin.
 - B. Worldly sorrow is the sorrow that a person exhibits only because they were _____ in their sin.
 - C. A person may even be mourning for the eternal _____ of their sin, and it still may be only a worldly mourning.
4. This 'godly mourning' is a profound and sincere "inner response" that comes from a work of the Holy Spirit, when He shows a person their spiritual destitution and their rebellion against _____.
 5. This 'mourning' is a condition of brokenness and contrition before God; it is that godly sorrow that produces _____ towards God.

Isaiah 6:5 – So I said, “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”

Luke 15:17a – “But when he came to himself.....”

Luke 15:18b – “.....Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.....”

6. This ‘holy mourning’ is an essential key to _____ repentance.



Acts 17:30 – “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent.....”

Acts 2:38 – Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 3:19a – “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.....”

Luke 13:3 – “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

3 ESSENTIALS SPIRITUAL REALITIES
THAT MUST BE MANIFESTED
IN TRUE REPENTANCE

A. _____

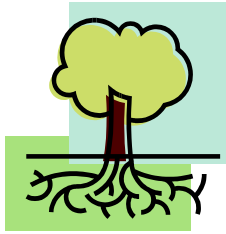
B. _____

C. _____

7. Without conviction and contrition there is no _____.

2 Corinthians 7:10a – For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted.....

8. God never plants the tree of His salvation without sending down the roots over poverty of spirit and holy _____.



Isaiah 61:1-3 – “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

9. Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted will be _____. – Matthew 15:13
10. Without Godly sorrow there is no repentance; and without repentance there is _____ salvation.
- A. The One who produces the godly sorrow, is the same One who provides the _____, when there is true repentance.
- Psalm 34:18 – (Amplified Version) – The Lord saves such as are crushed with sorrow for their sin, and humbly and thoroughly repent.
- Psalm 32:1 – Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
11. This experience of holy mourning and godly comfort will be a present and _____ reality in the life of a born again believer.

A. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord so
_____ in Him. – Colossians 2:6

Romans 7:15 & 18 – For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

B. Oh _____ man that I am..... - Romans 7:24

12. Our rebellious propensity to wander from the perfect will of God, should be a daily _____ to our hearts.
13. A growing discovery of our depravity and the sea of corruption within us will be an ongoing reality that _____ our hearts.
14. Before conversion, we jumped into sin and loved it; but after conversion, we fall into sin and _____ over it.

.....**F**or they shall be
Comforted

15. It is only the mourners who will know the _____ of God in salvation.
16. It is only the mourners who will know the comfort of God, through the sanctification _____ of their lives.
17. It is only the mourners who will know the comfort of the blessed _____.
18. How do you know you are mourning over sin as Jesus commands?

A. Are you _____ to the sin in your life?

B. Do you see your sin 'as a sin against God'?

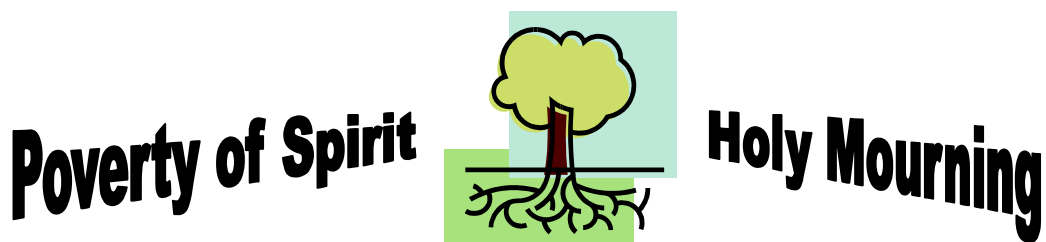
Psalm 51:4 – Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight - That you may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Luke 15:21a – “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight’.....”

C. Do you have a true concern about the harm that your sin does to the glory of God and the cause of _____?

D. Do you have a sense of assurance that you are experiencing God's _____?

Has God planted His tree of



In your life?

PART III



Matthew 5:4

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

1. This was a shocking statement to the audience which was _____ to Jesus that day.
2. This was also a startling statement to the religious _____ of Jesus' day.
3. They had forgotten that Moses, one of their spiritual fathers, was described by God as a man, who was very meek, above all the men who were on the face of the _____.

Psalm 22:26a – The meek shall eat and be satisfied.....

Psalm 25:9 – The meek He guides in justice, and the meek He teaches His way.

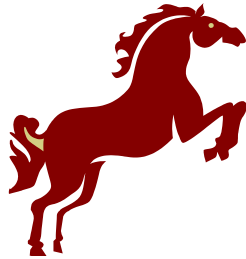
Psalm 76:9 – When God arose to judgment, to deliver all the meek of the earth.

Psalm 147:6 – The Lord lifts up the meek; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

Isaiah 29:19a – The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord.....

4. I remind you that there is an obvious logical connection between each of these beatitudes, for each one is born of the _____ one.
5. This 'meekness' describes a quality of character that is exactly the _____ of 'self-will'.

6. When a person has been 'meeked' they have been brought under guided control of a new _____.
7. There must be some degree of initial meeking in the genuine _____ of a person.



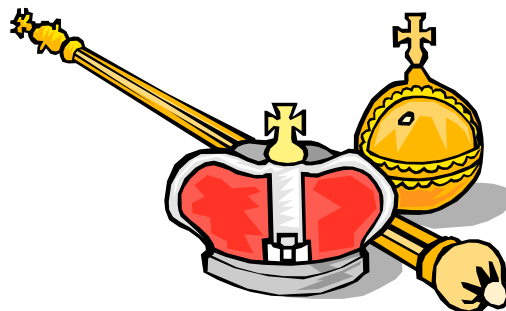
Isaiah 53:6 – All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

- A. The continual disposition of the unconverted person, is a practice of life that declares, "I will not have this King to _____ over me".
8. When genuine conversion occurs, a person is willing to yield his life to the control of _____ Jesus.

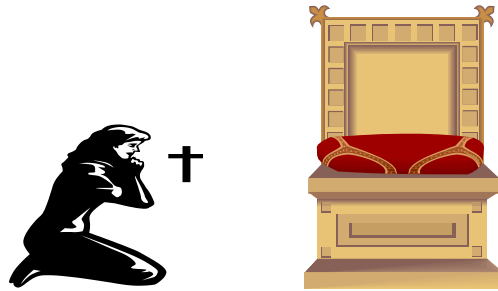
Romans 10:13 – For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Romans 10:9-10 –that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Hebrews 1:8 – But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom."



- A. No one enters into the Kingdom of Jesus, without bowing before His Throne and submitting to His _____.



Acts 2:36 – “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

9. When conversion is authentic, it begins an unfolding revelation of ‘what it means’:

- A. For Jesus to be our sovereign King.
- B. For us to be His loyal subjects, by being yielded to His will, His purpose and His _____.

Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.....

Colossians 3:12 – Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering.....

Ephesians 4:1-2a – I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called with all lowliness and meekness.....

**HOW WILL MEEKNESS BE MANIFESTED
IN THE LIFE OF A BORN AGAIN DISCIPLE?**

1. The person walking in 'meekness' will be compliant to the _____ of God.

Matthew 7:21 – “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

- A. In this same glorious sermon, Jesus taught us to pray, ‘your Kingdom come. _____ will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven’. – Matthew 6:10

2. The person walking in ‘meekness’ is content with _____ of God.

- A. The revelation of God’s sovereignty enables us to walk in meekness, in the great adversities of _____.

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- B. The person walking in meekness declares, “Whatever pleases the Lord, pleases _____”.

- C. He has learned what it means to be brought into sweet resignation to:

(1) Sovereign will of God

(2) The wise providence of God

(3) The mysterious _____ of God

3. The person walking in ‘meekness’ is flexible to the _____ of God.

James 1:21b –and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- A. Woe to the man who rejects the attitude of meekness and attempts to sit in judgment of the Word of _____.

- B. When the meek in attitude find any precept in the Word of God, they seek to _____ it immediately.
 - C. The man who is walking in 'meekness' is willing to continually receive the Word of God, by allowing it to direct and dominate his _____.
4. The truly meek person will have an attitude of gentleness toward other _____.

2 Corinthians 10:1a – Now, I Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.....

- A. By the grace of God and the Spirit of God, he has mastered his attitudes and his responses, for he has been mastered by the King of _____.
- B. The person walking in meekness is able to _____ others in a godly manner.

2 Timothy 2:24-25a – And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition.....

Galatians 6:1a – Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.....

- C. This disposition of gentleness toward others is _____ in the sight of the Lord.

WHY IS MEEKNESS SUCH A PRIORITY?

1. You cannot be saved without meekness.

Romans 10:9 –that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

2. You cannot rightly receive the Word without meekness.

James 1:21 – Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

3. You cannot witness effectively without meekness.

I Peter 3:15 – But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.....

4. You cannot restore fallen brothers without meekness.

Galatians 6:1a – Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.....

5. You cannot walk in the spirit, without meekness being manifest as a “fruit of the spirit”.

Galatians 5:21-22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control.....

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM WALKING IN MEEKNESS?

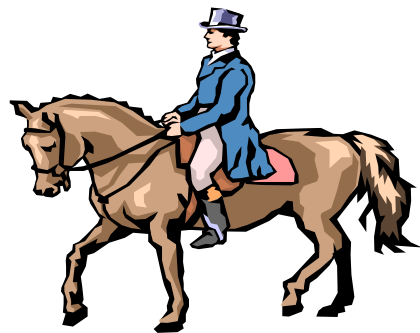
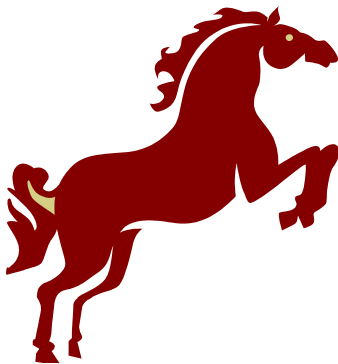
1. Is the reality of the direction of my ‘7-day a week’ life declaring – “Not my will, but your will be done”?
2. Is Jesus Christ “Lord” of every compartment in my life?
3. Am I willing to submit to His Word on any issue?
4. Am I willing to yield to God’s rod of correction, when necessary?

5. Am I willing to submit to the Lord, when the winds of adversity blow through my life?
6. Do I have a teachable attitude?
7. When I am attacked, do I attempt to defend myself or retaliate?
8. Am I willing to humble myself and consider biblical advice from others?
9. Am I patient and gentle with others, when I am teaching them or correcting them?
10. What is the promise given to the one that is being meeked by the Lord Jesus?

“THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH”

{There is a present reality to this promise; as well as an obvious future reference}

Which one best describes your life?



**A Life Running Out
Guided
Of Control!
Control!**

A Life Under

PART IV



Matthew 5:6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

1. This beatitude emphasizes one of the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel of _____.
2. This beatitude stands at the _____ of these profound and glorious teachings.
3. The heart of every person was created with a 'hunger and thirst' that can only be satisfied with the Lord _____.

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

I. THE DESIRE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS – HUNGER AND THIRST

- A. These two words, 'hunger and thirst', depict an extremely _____ and fervent desire of the soul for righteousness.

Psalm 42:2a – My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.....



Psalm 63:1 – O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

Isaiah 55:1a – “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.....”

John 7:37b – “.....If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.”

John 6:35 – And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

- B. One who is 'hungering and thirsting' has a deep and desperate need that increases and intensifies until it is _____.
- C. It is a glorious day, when the sinner realized that he has no righteousness of his _____.

II. THE DEFINITION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. In many Old Testament passages, “Righteousness” is synonymous with _____.

Isaiah 45:8 – “Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together.....”



Isaiah 46:12-13 – “Listen to Me, you stubborn-hearted, who are far from righteousness: I bring My righteousness near, it shall not be far off: My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, for Israel My glory.”

Isaiah 51:5a – My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth.....

Isaiah 56:1 – Thus says the Lord: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, for My salvation is about to come, and My righteousness to be revealed.”

Isaiah 61:10 – I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.....

1. How can a man be _____ before God?

Mathew 5:48 – “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”

Romans 3:10 – As it is written: “There is none righteous, no not one.....”

Isaiah 64:6b –all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.....

Psalms 143:2b -for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

Romans 10:3 – For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

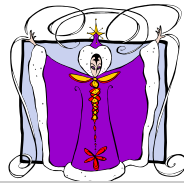
B. Whenever God is going to give a person a certain blessing, He begins by working in them an intense _____ for that blessing.

C. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the Righteousness of _____ in Him. – 2 Corinthians 5:21



Isaiah 61:10b –He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.....

**HE CLOTHES YOU
WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS**



Romans 1:16-17 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”

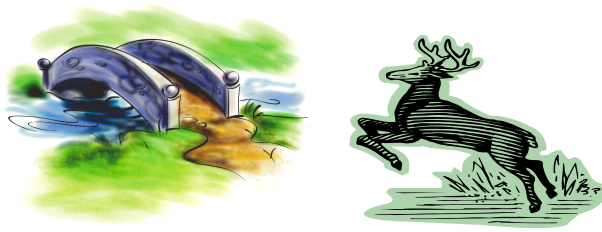
Romans 3:21-22 – But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.....

- D. Once a person has experienced the gift of ‘imputed righteousness’ in justification, he longs to experience ‘imparted righteousness’ in his practical daily _____.

1 Corinthians 1:30 – But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God- and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.....

- E. Lord, make me as holy, as it is possible for a _____ sinner to be.
- F. This beatitude should produce a deep ‘soul-searching’ of the _____ of your heart.
- G. The new birth begins a glorious pursuit of the infinite _____ of an intimate love relationship with the Lord.

Psalms 42:1-2a – As the deer pants for the water brooks so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.....



- H. When we taste of the sweetness and goodness of the Lord, it satisfies us; but it also makes us thirsty for _____.**

Psalm 34:8 – Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

- I. A born again disciple should never stop hungering and thirsting for more of God's righteousness and holiness to be manifest in them, through their _____ to His Word and His Will.**

Philippians 3:8-9 – Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.....

- J. Whatever you are intensely desiring and earnestly seeking, certainly displays the most concise picture of your real _____.**

.....**F**or They

- 1. This word 'Filled' means to be completely _____.**
- 2. There will be a continuing paradox in the _____.**

Psalm 107:9 – For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

Psalm 23:1 – The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Jeremiah 31:14b –My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the Lord.

3. There will be a full and final satisfaction for all _____.

2 Peter 3:13 – Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Psalm 17:15 – As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM HUNGERING AND THIRSTING AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS?

1. Are you panting after the person of Jesus?

Psalm 42:1 – As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.

2. Are you pursuing above all things:

A. A right conforming to the Will of God;

B. A right relationship to the Word of God;

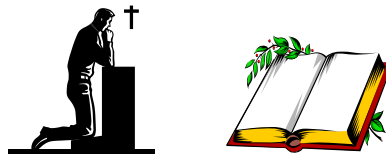


C. A right living in the Sight of God.

3. Do you refuse anything in your life that is an obstacle to your “Hunger and Thirst”?

4. Do you welcome anything that increases your hunger and thirst?

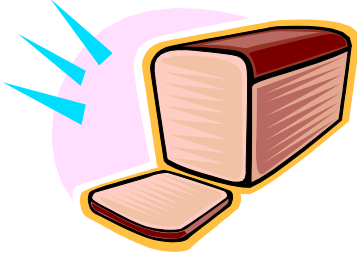
5. Do you desire to be around people who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness?
6. Do you refuse all religious substitutes?
 - A. Religious activity instead of true repentance
 - B. Trusting in your own righteousness
7. Do you place your life in positions, in which you can be filled?
 - A. Are you placing yourself under men who will challenge you?
 - B. Are you spending quality time alone with God?



8. Are you willing to put away any amusements or distractions that would hinder your hunger and thirst for God?

***“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the Waters;
And you who have no money, Come buy and eat,
Yes come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without price.
Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?”
Isaiah 55:1-2***

JESUS SAID



**I AM THE
BREAD OF LIFE**



**I AM THE
LIVING WATER**

PART V



Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

1. God is reminding us in a powerful way, that True Christianity has all of its primary focus on _____ and not 'doing'.
2. We are not meant to control our Christianity; our Christianity is meant to _____ us.
3. A heart that demonstrates God's mercy to others is giving a certain evidence that it has been a personal recipient of the saving _____ of God.
4. The mercy that Jesus is describing is a _____ from God.

5. The person who has experienced the mercy of God, now has the capacity to be a _____ of that mercy to others.
6. The only alternative to the mercy of God is the _____ of God.

Deuteronomy 32:4a – He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice.....

Romans 9:15 – For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”

- A. I do not want to receive justice from God; I want to receive His _____.

James 2:13 – For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy.....

I. THE DEFINITION OF MERCY

- A. The Bible declares that mercy is an _____ of God.

1. Through these scriptures, God reveals Himself as a God of _____ justice and mercy.

Exodus 34:6b-7 – “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”

- B. Justice is “God giving you exactly what you deserve”; Mercy is “God _____ giving you exactly what you deserve”.



Numbers 14:18a – The Lord is long suffering and abundant in mercy.....

Ephesians 2:4a – But God who is rich in mercy.....

Lamentations 3:22a – Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed.....

Psalm 136:1 – Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 103:4 - Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.....

- C. God’s mercy is not a disposition that makes God completely ignore and _____ sin.**

Exodus 34:7b -by no means clearing the guilty.....

- D. God’s mercy is not a disposition that restrains God from being _____ angry with sin.**

Psalm 7:11 – God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

Psalm 5:5b –You hate all workers of iniquity.

John 3:18b -but he who does not believe is condemned already

John 3:36b – “.....and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Romans 1:18 – For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.....

E. God had pure pity and holy compassion on us; His compassion led Him to action; and He chose to manifest the _____ of His mercy, on sinners who deserved His justice.

F. “But God, who was _____ in mercy.....” .

Titus 3:5b -but according to His mercy He saved us.....

G. “.....To give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God with which the dayspring from on high has _____ us.....”. – Luke 1:77-78

H. God’s mercy did not overlook or ignore sin; God’s mercy paid the _____ for the guilty ones.

Psalm 85:10 – Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

I Timothy 1:13b -but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

I. Mercy is that love which is seen in God and then in God’s people which reaches out to the broken lives of men, in order to heal them and to _____ them.



J. Grace is especially associated with men in their sins; mercy is associated with men in their _____.

K. We enter the narrow gate by seeking God’s mercy; we give evidence that we have entered, by _____ God’s mercy to the needy.

Example: Luke 10:25-37

1. Mercy finds a way to help those who are in _____.

2. Mercy refuses to make excuses to _____ personal responsibility.
- L. The question that the man asked and his sinful desire to justify himself, revealed that this man was _____ in mercy.

II. THE MANIFESTATIONS OF MERCY

- A. He will have an attitude of compassion toward others, who are in the midst of _____.

Job 6:14 – “To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend, even though he forsakes the fear of the Almighty.”

1. Those who should have been Job’s comforters proved to be his _____.

Proverbs 17:17 – A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

- B. He will have a desire to help those who are in _____ need.

Proverbs 14:21b –he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

Proverbs 14:31b –he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

Psalm 41:1a – Blessed is he who considers the poor.....

Matthew 25:35-36 & 40 – “..... ‘For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ” “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ ”

- C. He will have mercy on men when justice would compel him to _____ back.

- D. He will show forgiveness to his _____.

Luke 23:34a – Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.....”

Acts 7:60a – Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.”

- E. He will demonstrate concern for lost sinners, to rescue them from their miserable _____ condition.

Romans 9:1-3 – I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh.....

Romans 10:1 – Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

- F. He will be willing to confront and correct “professing believers”, who are walking in an open practice of _____.

Galatians 6:1 – Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.....

1. It is sinful negligence that allows sin to continue without confrontation and _____.

Blessed are the Merciful

FOR

They shall receive Mercy
They shall receive Mercy

PART VI



MATTHEW 5:8

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.

1. Jesus Christ is the supreme _____ on the subject of the human heart.
2. It seems as if Jesus is calling for a requirement of character, that is _____ to attain?

Proverbs 20:9 – Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin”?

Exodus 33:20b – But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

1 Timothy 6:16 -who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.....

3. With men, the fulfillment of these promises are impossible; but not with God, for with God all things are _____.

Hebrews 11:27 – By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

I. THE LORD’S DEFINITION OF “THE HUMAN HEART”

- A. The Lord uses the term “heart” to define the center of the human _____.

Proverbs 4:23 – Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

- B. The heart is the master control center of the “thinking process” of the _____.

Proverbs 23:7a – For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.....

Matthew 9:4 – But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?”

Hebrews 4:12 – For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Matthew 15:19-20 – “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

1 Samuel 16:7b – “.....For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

C. It is the “heart” that dictates the character, directs the will and _____ the affections.

II. THE LORD’S DIAGNOSIS OF THE HUMAN HEART

A. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately _____ . – Jeremiah 17:9

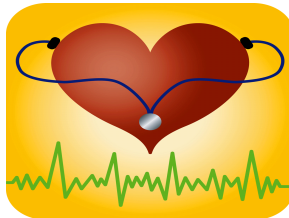
1. The human heart is _____ .

2. The human heart is _____ .

B. God is saying that the human heart is a _____ .

Proverbs 28:26 – He who trusts in his own heart is a fool.....

C. Only God can give the _____ diagnosis of the true condition of a heart.



Jeremiah 17:10 – I the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

III. GOD’S DECLARATION TO THE HUMAN HEART

“Only the pure in heart will see God”

“Only the pure in heart will see God”

Psalms 24:3-4a – Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.....

- A. God declares that no man can make his heart _____, by his own power or wisdom.
- B. The word “pure” is the Greek word that was used for purified air, purified water or purified _____.
- C. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ can cure the depravity and deception of the human _____.

Ezekiel 36:25-26 – “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

- D. The work of salvation is a _____ of the heart.
1. The conviction of _____ takes place in the heart.
Acts 2:37a – Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart.....
 2. The illumination of the gospel truth, that the Lord Jesus is the only acceptable _____ takes place in the heart.



2 Corinthians 4:6 – For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

3. The heart is the place where _____ occurs.

Romans 10:9 -that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

4. The heart is the place where the initial _____ of salvation occurs.

Acts 15:9b – “.....purifying their hearts by faith.”

IV. GOD'S DESCRIPTION OF A “PURE HEART”

“A SINGLENES OF HEART”

“A SINGLENES OF HEART”

- A. To have a “pure heart” is to have a single-minded _____ to the Lord Jesus.

Psalms 86:11b-12 –unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart.....

- B. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you _____ minded. – James 4:8
- C. Double-mindedness is sometimes caused by an _____ in their worship.
1. The Lord Jesus Christ will not share _____ place with anyone or anything else.
- D. Would you not cry out today, “Create in me a _____ heart O God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me.”? – Psalm 51:10

“CLEANLINESS OF HEART”

“CLEANLINESS OF HEART”

1. To have a “pure heart” is to have a life that is attracted by the beauty of _____.

Romans 12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Peter 1:15 -But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.

Hebrews 12:14 – Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.

Matthew 5:8 – Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

2. Our heart is purified so that we might pursue a life that is :
 - A. Set apart from the flesh’s plan and purposes;
 - B. Set apart unto _____ plans and purposes.
3. No one shall know the reality of “Holiness Perfected” in heaven, who does not now know the reality of “Holiness pursued” on the _____.

1 Thessalonians 4:3a – For this is the will of God, your sanctification.....

4. The pure in heart are to pursue an attitude of mind and a practice of conduct which corresponds to one who is truly _____ to the Lord.

Romans 6:22 – But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

- A. They have a sincere desire and make a serious attempt to be cleansed and delivered from _____ sin.

2 Corinthians 7:1b –let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

B. They pursue every Christ-like virtue and _____.

1 John 2:6 – He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.



C. They have a genuine desire for integrity in the _____ man.

D. They are consciously concerned with the _____ that remain.

V. THE DELIGHT OF THE PURE IN HEART

“THEY SHALL SEE GOD”

“THEY SHALL SEE GOD”

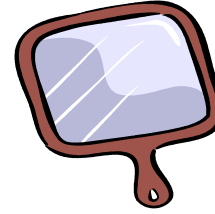
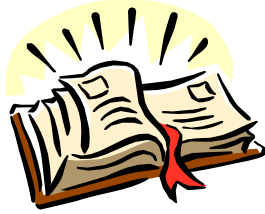


A. They will see God with spiritual eyes in present grace.

1. They will see God by the illumination of the eyes of _____.

Hebrews 11:1 – Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2. They will see God through the revelation of the _____ of God.



2 Corinthians 3:18 – But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- 3. They see God completely satisfied with His _____.**

Hebrews 2:9 – But we see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

- 4. They will see God through the demonstration of His _____ in their lives and the lives of others.**

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

John 15:16 – “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:8 – “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

- 5. They will see God in the demonstrations of His _____ in the affairs of their lives and this world.**

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- B. They will see God in “Future Glory”.**

1 John 3:2-3 – Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.....

1. The pure in heart have been given a desire in their soul, that nothing less than the sight of God in glory can _____.

Psalm 17:15 – As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

Job 19:26 – And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God.....

1 John 3:3 – And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Timothy 2:21 – Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

PART VII

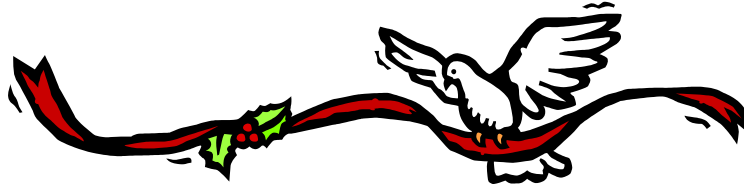


MATTHEW 5:9

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS FOR THEY SHALL BE
CALLED THE SONS OF GOD.

I. THE DEFINITION OF TRUE “BIBLICAL PEACE”

- A. This true biblical “peace” is the wonderful result of having a _____ relationship with God.



Romans 5:1 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

- B. On a number of occasions, the Bible proclaims God, as “the God of _____”.

2 Corinthians 13:11b –The God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 – Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.....

John 14:27a – “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.....”

- C. It was prophesied, hundreds of years before the incarnation of Jesus Christ, that a _____ of peace would come to earth.

Isaiah 9:6 – For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- D. Having made peace through the blood of His _____. -
Colossians 1:20

2 Corinthians 5:18a – Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ.....

2 Corinthians 5:19a -..... That is that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.....

Romans 5:1b –We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

- E. When we repented and believed the gospel, our war with God was _____ forever.

Colossians 1:21 – And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.....

Psalms 32:1-2 – Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

F. There is no genuine peace in the heart and life of a _____ person.

Isaiah 48:22 – “There is no peace,” says the Lord, “for the wicked.”

Romans 3:17 – “.....And the way of peace they have not known.”

G. Authentic biblical peace only becomes a reality when truth is obeyed and righteousness is _____.

Isaiah 32:17a – The work of righteousness will be peace.....

1. God’s message of the gospel of peace is not a _____ with sin or sinners.

2. The message of the gospel may sometimes cause _____.

Matthew 10:34 – “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.”

John 7:43 – So there was a division among the people because of Him.

Acts 14:4 – But the multitude of the city was divided; part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

H. The peacemaker must be aware that the message of truth and righteousness will be _____ to some.

II. THE DISPOSITION OF A PEACEMAKER

“THE EVANGELISM OF THE LOST”

“THE EVANGELISM OF THE LOST”

1. A peacemaker is a person who is actively on mission with God, praying for “open doors” and seeking opportunities, to share the conditions of peace with those who are _____ of God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 – Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

2. The peacemaker realizes that he has been left in this world to be an _____ for Christ.

3. How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of _____ things. – Romans 10:15b



Romans 10:14-15a – How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?.....

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

“THE EDIFICATION OF THE SAINTS”

“THE EDIFICATION OF THE SAINTS”

1. The “peacemaker” does all that he can to produce peace and maintain peace between _____.

James 3:17a – But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle.....

2. Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the _____ of peace – Ephesians 4:2b
3. He is ready to humble himself and suffer wrong and injustice, in order that peace may be produced and God may be _____.
4. The “peacemaker” has learned to control his _____.

James 1:19 – So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.....

James 4:11 – Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

5. It is only when the peace of God is manifested in the people of God, that the message of “peace with God” will be authenticated in the lives of the _____ of God.
6. Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross that He might cement believers together by His _____.



III. THE DECLARATION OF GOD ABOUT THE PEACEMAKER

“FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD”

“FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE SONS OF GOD”

John 1:12 – But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.....

1. As ministers of reconciliation, we are promised the glorious blessing of eternal son-ship in the Kingdom of _____.

ARE YOU A
PEACEMAKER?



PART VIII



MATTHEW 5:10-12

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN THEY REVILE AND PERSECUTE YOU, AND SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU FALSELY FOR MY SAKE.

REJOICE AND BE EXCEEDING GLAD, FOR GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN, FOR SO THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEFORE YOU.

I. THE REALITY OF PERSECUTION

Matthew 5:10A – Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

A. The curses of men and the blessings of Jesus rest on the _____ person.

Philippians 1:29 – For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.....

B. He who is a friend of God will be an enemy of this _____.

John 3:19 – And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.

**C. To the one we are an aroma of life leading to life; and to the other the aroma of death leading to _____. –
2 Corinthians 2:16**

D. The reality of persecution for righteousness' sake is one of the tangible evidences of authentic _____.

1 Thessalonians 3:3 -that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

Acts 9:15-16 – But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

John 15:18-20 – “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.....”

John 5:16 – For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

- E. Unconverted people are, by nature, _____ to the persecution of the converted.

Galatians 4:29 – But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

Genesis 21:8-9 -And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned and Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, who she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

John 17:14 – “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

- F. If we carry Christ in our hearts, we must carry a _____ of persecution on our shoulder.

Luke 9:23 – Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Hebrews 11:35b-39a -Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings, and scourings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith.....

Acts 14:22b - “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

1 Peter 4:12 – Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.....

Philippians 3:10 -That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

II. THE REASONS FOR PERSECUTION

Matthew 5:10a -For righteousness’ sake

Matthew 5:11c -For My name’s sake

A. The faithful disciple is persecuted because of the
_____ that he lives.

Luke 6:26 – “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

B. The faithful disciple is persecuted because of the
_____ that he shares.

C. Self-righteous sinners hate the message of the gospel of
_____ grace.

Luke 16:15a – And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men.....”

Matthew 5:12b – “.....for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Acts 4:3a – And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody.....

Luke 9:26 – “For whoever is ashamed of Me and my words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father’s, and of the holy angels.”

D. If we would keep our Christianity to ourselves, we would be _____.

III. THE REALM OF PERSECUTION

Matthew 5:11a – Blessed are you when they revile you.....

A. To “revile” you is to cast serious _____ against you.

Matthew 5:11b -and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

B. They may slander your character while you are not in their _____.

C. We may possibly face _____ persecution to our bodies.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 – Are they ministers of Christ? – I speak as a fool- I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.....

IV. OUR RESPONSE TO PERSECUTION

Matthew 5:12 – Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven.....

Luke 6:23a – Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!

Acts 5:41 – So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

Acts 16:25 – But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

WHY CAN A CHILD OF GOD REJOICE IN THE MIDST OF ABUSE AND REJECTION?

1. We can rejoice that we have the tremendous privilege of having fellowship with the _____ of Christ.

Philippians 3:10 -that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.....

2. We can rejoice in the fact that this persecution is working _____ in our character.

James 1:3 -knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Romans 5:3-5 – And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

3. We can rejoice because this persecution is causing us to be more dependent on the sustaining _____ of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 12:9 – And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

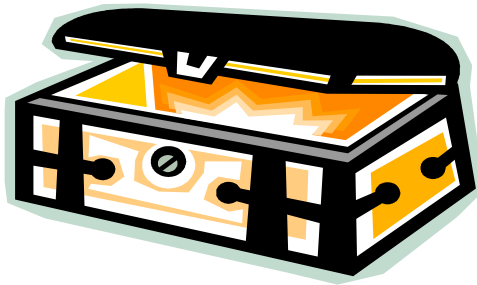
4. We can rejoice in the truth that our suffering can be used as a means for the extension of the _____.

Philippians 1:12 – But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.....

5. We can rejoice in the fact that this persecution makes us yearn for _____.

Romans 8:18 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

6. We can rejoice in the truth that we have a great _____ which is awaiting us in heaven.



Matthew 5:12a – “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven.....”

1 Peter 4:12-13 – Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.