



Sunday, November 28, 2010: Blessed are the Peacemakers

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22; Matthew 5:9

Speaker: Scott Masson

Sermon Notes:

1. The beatitudes show the distinctiveness of the Christian life, as required if we are to obtain the blessings promised.
2. Only a new man, one transformed by Christ, can obtain this life of blessing.
3. We've been in the end times for 2000 years, but we should not despair; the same power of God is at work in our world.
4. In our time we see the failure of faith in science, technology, man's law, and a deified state.
5. We need to wake ourselves up to the terrific blessings that are in Christ for every age. God has not abandoned us.
6. If we do not trust Christ's atonement, people will seek to atone for their guilt by other means.
7. Western trends are empowering the public square and the judiciary to atone for our sins through self-punishment.
8. Political correctness involves wholesale revision of laws, morality, and history. It ignores the gospel which shaped western history.
9. Peacemaking is critical because of a theological problem called sin.
10. The One from whom we need to be saved is the One who atoned for our sin.
11. By the decree of God, the wrath of God for the sins of humanity fell not on us who deserved it, but on His innocent Son.
12. God should have punished us for our rebellion. But in the cross God designed a way to satisfy His perfect justice, and yet to free the guilty from the grip of sin.
13. Jesus naturalizes those who were once strangers to God (Ephesians 2:12-13).
14. We can begin to enjoy the warmth of fellowship with God and our fellow man because Jesus makes peace.

15. The peace of God has been made and extends to provide us a new family and new relationships based on peace.
16. The grace of God is unfathomable; we can't fully understand it though we experience it.
17. We're to extend in the household of God the grace He showed to us.
18. If we have the Holy Spirit, we are seated on high with Christ, giving us comfort and patience in tribulations.
19. The blood of Christ removes the wall of hostility and we no longer need to assert our superiority. We don't need to look to others to establish our worth (Ephesians 2:14-15).
20. The atonement of Christ has power to bring peace to every aspect of God's world.
21. Abolishing the law in verse 15 refers to ceremonial law only, as the moral and civil law define justice in Christ's just kingdom.
22. God has called us to obey all things that He has commanded; simply telling people about Jesus extends His peaceful reign.
23. In our time we need the peace that brings us to God (2 Cor. 5:18-21).

Application Questions:

1. Why do we find it difficult to maintain friendships, why are wars brewing eternally?
2. Am I ruled by a desire to assert my superiority in relationships among Christian believers?
3. Am I guilty of passive aggression or aggression in relationships?
4. How does the atonement of Christ resolve human conflict? How does it resolve alienation?
5. How can I minister the peace of God into the conflict and alienation of our world this week?