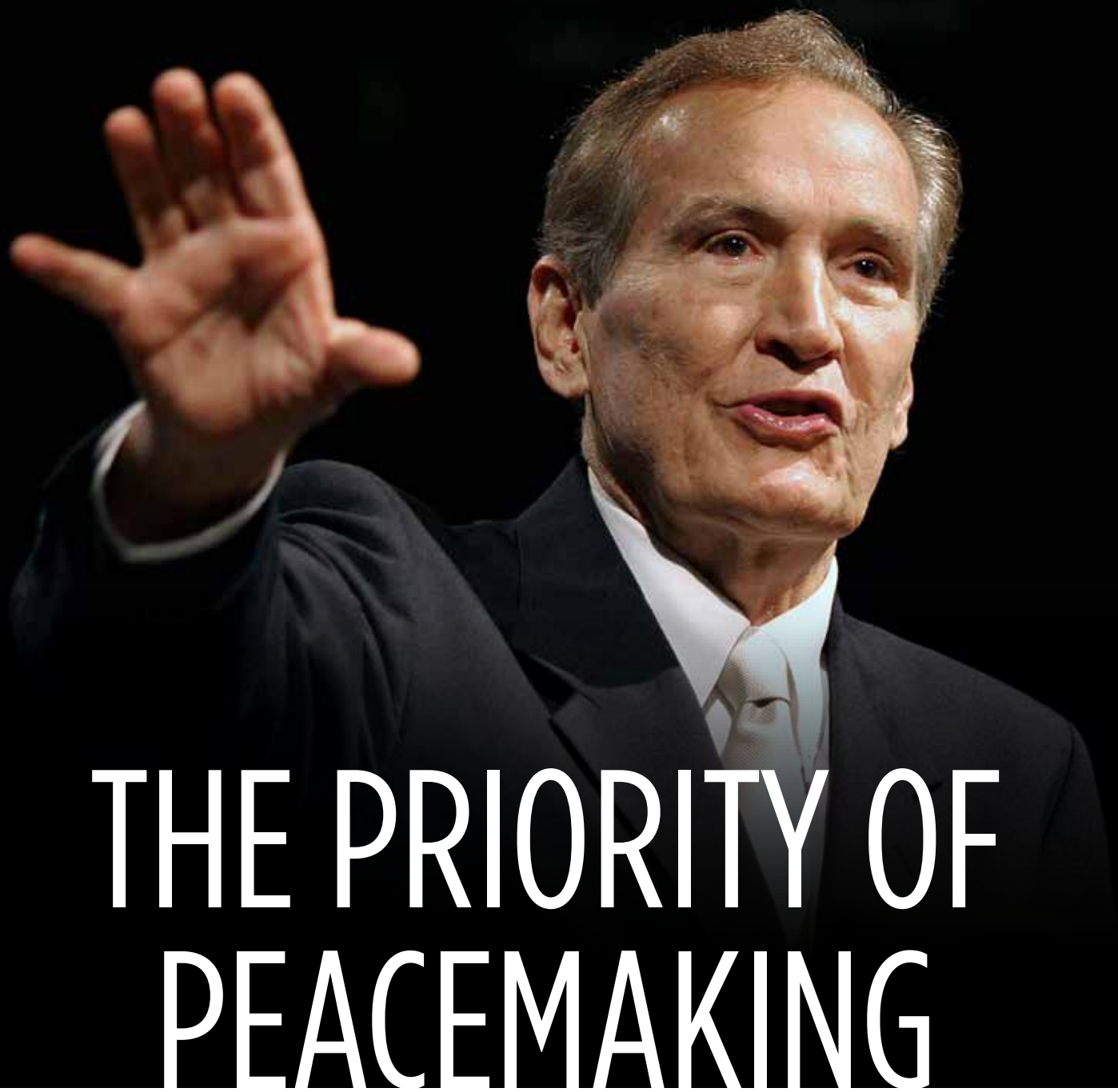




THE PRIORITY OF PEACEMAKING

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





The Priority of Peacemaking

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The Priority of Peacemaking

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 5:9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1663

Matthew 5:9 says, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Where do wars come from? James 4 claims that men wage war against one another due to the war within ourselves. Furthermore, this inner war is proof of war with God. People are not at peace within themselves; this is why they cannot be at peace with anyone else.

Until we are right with God, we will be troublemakers and not peacemakers. We must understand the priority of peacemaking.

First, we must consider the attributes of peace.

Peace is not appeasement. In fact, appeasement never brings peace. Adrian Rogers says, "There is something desperately wrong with the person who can get along with everybody."

Though the Bible says to be at peace with all men if it is possible (Romans 12:18), this is not always possible. Jesus Christ, Himself did not get along with everybody. We will be known by the enemies we make.

Adrian Rogers says, "Peace is a right relationship with God that leads to a right relationship with self, and guides us in a right relationship with other people."

Second, we must recognize the adversary of peace, which is sin.

Sin brings inner turmoil because it separates men from God. There can be no peace without the Prince of Peace. Jesus will never make a truce with sin. Jesus came to put a line of demarcation between truth and error, between light and dark, between sin and righteousness.

Matthew 10:34 says, "Think not that I've come to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace but a sword."

When God's standard of righteousness is set, there will always be division. Without righteousness, there can be no godly peace. And the sword that Jesus has is like a scalpel: it must first hurt before it heals.

Peace has been planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and provided by the Spirit. We are ambassadors and agents of peace, called to share the hope of reconciliation with a world in turmoil.

Life Application

We are agents of peace. Share the hope of reconciliation with others today.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Matthew 5:1-9
 - i) Matthew 5:3
 - (1) Blessed are those who see their spiritual need; that they are bankrupt in the sight of a righteous and a holy God.
 - ii) Matthew 5:4
 - (1) Blessed are those who are broken over their sins, who truly repent and turn from their sins.
 - iii) Matthew 5:5
 - (1) Blessed are those who yield to God and are ready to accept His will for their lives.
 - iv) Matthew 5:6
 - (1) Our righteousness is Jesus Christ Himself, who is God's answer to man's sins.
 - v) Matthew 5:7
 - (1) We show mercy because we've been shown mercy.
 - (2) We've received mercy through the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - vi) Matthew 5:8
 - (1) When we have come this route, then God purifies our hearts and gives us a fresh vision of Himself.
 - (2) God becomes a bright, living reality.
 - vii) Matthew 5:9
- b) No one can buy peace.
 - i) No one can buy this commodity, and it is a commodity that the world needs more than anything else.
- c) We have made the world a neighborhood, but we haven't made it a brotherhood.
 - i) There is a desperate need for peace.
- d) James 4 is one of the most significant passages in the Bible as we search for peace.
 - i) James 4:1-4
 - ii) James mentions three wars that are going on:
 - (1) We war among ourselves.
 - (a) James 4:1
 - (b) Men are at war with one another.
 - (c) We may have a truce now and then, but there is no peace.
 - (d) We have no peace religiously, economically, racially, socially, politically, personally or in families.
 - (2) We war within ourselves.
 - (a) James 4:1



- (b) There is a war on the inside that wars in our members.
- (c) People are not at peace.
 - (i) This is why they cannot be at peace with anyone else.
 - (ii) They are in turmoil themselves.
 - 1. They are a fight and an argument going somewhere to happen.
- (3) We are at war with God.
 - (a) James 4:4
 - (i) The word “enmity” here means “warfare.”
 - (b) We are at war with one another because we are at war with ourselves.
 - (i) We are at war with ourselves because we are at war with God.
 - (c) Isaiah 57:21
- e) Until we are right with God in this world, we will be a trouble maker and not a peacemaker.

2) THE ATTRIBUTE OF PEACE

- a) Peace is not appeasement.
 - i) Don't get the idea that if you are an appeaser that you are a peacemaker.
 - ii) Appeasement never brings peace.
 - iii) We are not honor-bound to get along with everyone.
 - (1) There is something wrong with the person who can get along with everybody.
 - iv) Romans 12:18
 - (1) It is not always possible to be at peace with all men.
 - v) We are known by the enemies that we make.
 - vi) Every man of God has those who don't love him.
 - (1) All of us who stand for God will have enemies.
 - vii) The Lord Jesus Christ did not get along with everybody, and everybody did not get along with the Lord Jesus.
- b) Peace is not truce-making.
 - i) A truce only means that there is a succession of hostilities.
 - (1) There can still be a cold war that goes underground to fester and to grow and, perhaps, to break out again.
- c) Peace is not the absence of war of any kind, hot or cold.
 - i) There is no strife in a cemetery, but that is not peace.
 - (1) It takes more than a grave marker to bring peace to a troubled soul.
- d) When the Bible uses the word “peace”, it is a positive word.
 - i) In the Old Testament and even today, the Jewish people greet one another with the word “Shalom.”
 - (1) “Shalom” means “peace.”
 - (a) It does not mean, “May you get out of war.”
 - (b) Instead, it infers that there is something good, wonderful and positive happening.
- e) Peace is a right relationship with God that leads to a right relationship with self, and guides us in a right relationship with other people.
 - i) It is a sense of well-being.



- ii) Peace is literally the result and fruit of righteousness.
- f) Righteousness and peace are linked.
 - i) An unrighteous person can never have peace.
 - ii) Isaiah 48:22
 - iii) The only way to have peace is to have righteousness.
 - (1) Matthew 5:8-9
 - (a) There is no peace without purity.
 - (i) James 3:17
 - iv) Psalm 85:10
 - (1) There is a marriage between righteousness and peace.
 - (a) Matthew 19:6
 - v) Hebrews 7:2
 - (1) Melchizedek is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (2) Melchizedek is called two things:
 - (a) King of righteousness
 - (b) King of peace
 - g) Peace is the righteousness of God ruling and reigning in your heart.

3) THE ADVERSARY OF PEACE

- a) It follows as night follows day that if peace is linked with righteousness, then war and lack of peace are rooted in sin.
 - i) Isaiah 48:22
- b) Sin is the problem.
 - i) Sin separates men from God.
 - ii) Sin brings inner turmoil, and it separates men from men.
- c) Jeremiah 8:11-12
 - i) People give a false peace saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace.
 - ii) There can be no peace without purity.
 - (1) We have people today yelling, "Peace," but they can't even blush over their sins.
- d) The adversary of peace is sin, and this is the reason why the Bible does not teach peace at any price.
 - i) Matthew 10:34
 - (1) The Lord Jesus is the Prince of Peace, yet He said that He came not to send peace, but a sword.
 - (a) Luke 2:14
 - (b) Matthew 5:9
 - ii) Jesus did not come to bring some sort of false peace and union of good and evil.
 - (1) He came with a sword to put a line of demarcation between truth and error, light and dark, and between sin and righteousness.
 - iii) When God's standard of righteousness is set, there will always be a division.
 - (1) Without righteousness, there can be no Godly peace.
 - iv) Peace can never come where sin remains.



- (1) God will never make a peace treaty with sin.
- v) There can never be peace without first surrendering to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

4) THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE

- a) This peace has been planned by the Father.
 - i) Jeremiah 29:11
 - (1) God's thoughts toward us are thoughts of peace.
 - (2) God desires peace for us.
 - ii) Six times in the New Testament, He is called the God of peace.
 - iii) Judges 6:24
 - (1) "Jehovah Shalom" means "The Lord Our Peace."
- b) Peace has been purchased by the Son.
 - i) Ephesians 2:13-14
 - (1) We were far off; we were enemies.
 - (2) But we are now made nigh by the blood of Christ.
 - ii) Colossians 1:19-20
 - (1) Jesus Christ, on the cross, provided this peace.
 - iii) At the cross, wickedness was not appeased but confronted.
 - (1) At the cross, sin was not overlooked; it was atoned and paid for.
 - iv) God's greatest righteousness confronted man's greatest wickedness.
 - (1) Righteousness won, and peace was attained through the blood of the cross.
 - v) We don't make peace; Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross.
- c) Peace is provided by the Holy Spirit of God.
 - i) Galatians 5:22
 - ii) John 14:16, 26-27
 - iii) It is the Holy Spirit who brings peace to our hearts and minds.
 - iv) The Holy Spirit is the executor of the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - v) John 14:27
 - (1) The world does not give us this peace, and the world cannot take it away.
- d) Philippians 4:7

5) THE AGENTS OF PEACE

- a) Matthew 5:9
 - i) We are God's agents of peace.
- b) We are ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) Peace is reconciliation.
 - i) 2 Corinthians 5:18
 - ii) Our ministry is the ministry of reconciliation.
 - (1) This is simply soul-winning; telling people about Jesus.
- d) The greatest thing we can ever do is to receive the peace that Jesus Christ made on the cross, let the peace of God rule and reign in our hearts, and then be a peacemaker, not simply a peace lover.



- i) Do not be an appeaser: making peace with sin and unrighteousness.
- ii) Lift up the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6) CONCLUSION

- a) Corrie Ten Boom wisely said the following:
 - i) If you look around, you'll be distressed.
 - ii) If you look within, you'll be depressed.
 - iii) If you look to Jesus, you'll be at rest.
- b) Peace comes from Jesus.
- c) Do you have peace with God?
 - i) You'll never know peace until something is done about the sin problem.
 - ii) Romans 5:1
 - (1) You're not justified any other way but by trusting Christ.
- d) Today, if you will trust the Lord Jesus, then you can have peace with God, peace with yourself, and peace with others.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Be finding in the Gospels, the Gospel of Matthew, Matthew chapter 5 and we're going to look here in just a moment at these Beatitudes, the attitudes that ought to be. The characteristics of the God-like. And we call these beatitudes, "The Keys of the Kingdom." We've been having a wonderful time studying the Beatitudes.

And let's begin to read Matthew chapter 5 verse 1 through verse 9, "And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain: and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him: And He opened His mouth, and taught them, saying, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.' That is, blessed are those who see their spiritual need, that see that they're bankrupt in the sight of a righteous and a holy God. Then verse 4, "Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted." Yes, blessed are those who are broken over their sins, who truly repent and turn from their sins. And then verse 5, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the Earth." Blessed indeed are those who are yielded to God, and ready to accept His will for their lives. Verse 6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." And our righteousness is Jesus Christ Himself who is God's answer to man's sin. And then, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Those of us who have been shown mercy, show mercy, and thank God for the mercy we have received in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." When we have come this route, then God purifies our heart and gives us a fresh vision of Himself, and God becomes a bright living reality. And then we come to the Beatitude for today, verse 9, look at it, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

I was on an airplane, I picked up one of those magazines, and I read about a mall in Minneapolis. It's said to be the largest shopping mall in the world. It covers 4.2 million square feet. Now that's big. It's got stores, restaurants, night clubs, amusement rides, all of this. You say, "How big is that?" Well you could put 88 football fields inside this mall. And ladies, listen, to visit every store, you'd have to take a 3 mile hike, just to visit every store in that mall. It hires 10,000 people, they expect to be doing a billion dollars' worth of business a year. About 40 million visitors a year are going to come to this mall. Now when I read that article, I thought, you know, that's a big shopping mall. But there's one thing you will not be able to buy there, and that's peace. Nobody can put it in a bottle. Nobody can put it in a jar. There's no way, no matter how big the shopping center is, that you can buy the commodity that I'm talking about today, and that is a commodity that the world needs more than anything else, and that is peace. There is something desperately wrong with our world, and you don't need me to tell you about it, just pick up any newspaper and you can study it.

Now we're very intelligent people. We know a lot. We can build a mall that big. We can build jet airplanes. We can build rockets. We can build all of this. We have television that can circle the globe. We've made the world a neighborhood, but we haven't made it a brotherhood. There is a desperate cry, a desperate need for peace.

Now what causes all of this? Well just turn to the book of James with me. James chapter 4 now, for just a moment, James chapter 4, and I want you to look at it. James chapter 4, I think, is one of the most



significant passages in all of the Bible as we go on this search for peace. James explains the whole thing. James says in James chapter 4 verse 1, "From whence come wars and fightings among you?" Why can't we live together? James says, "Where does all of this come from."

In my reading, I read a very interesting story. There were two men who had been taken captive by the Americans in World War II, they were captured in Germany with other German prisoners. They were brought back to the United States, and they were put in a prisoner of war camp. But these two young men were different than all of the other German soldiers. They seemed to keep to themselves. They seemed to be frightened. They seemed to be bewildered. Nobody seemed to be able to communicate with them. The other Germans said they really didn't know anything about them. And every attempt to talk to them was just led in frustration as they would shrink further and further back, away from the interrogators. No one knew who they were. Couldn't figure them out. They were just different. They didn't even look like the other Germans. After a while, they brought in an expert. And he began to talk to them. He said, "No wonder you couldn't talk with them. They're from Tibet. You don't even understand their language." This man understood their language, and then he got their story.

Let me tell you what happened to these two fellows. It's really not funny, but it is funny in a way. They lived in Tibet, and they were tired of living there in their little village. They had never been anywhere or seen anything. Shut off from the outside world, so they decided they would go from Tibet across the northern border. They found themselves in Russia during World War II. Immediately they were picked up by the Russian authorities, they didn't know who these boys were. Before long, they were on a train headed towards the west. When they got there, outside a big city, they were given an army uniform. They were sent to boot camp. They shoved a rifle in their hand, and they were there on the Russian front, fighting the Germans. They'd never seen anything like that. People in hand to hand combat. They were shooting each other with guns. These young men, frightened, they retreated. And when they retreated, they were captured by the Germans.

And the Germans now took them, put them on another train, and they're traveling now, they end up in a German prisoner of war camp, about that time the Allies had come with the invasion of Normandy. And the Germans are retreating, they need every man that they can get. So they take these two boys, shove a gun in their hand, and tell them to go fight the Americans. And so they're out there now. Again scared to death. They begin to retreat, and the Americans capture them. And this time they're put in an American prisoner of war camp, and they end up in the United States. And finally the whole secret is unlocked. These boys from Tibet, they didn't know anything. Finally after they talked to them a while. They said, "Do you have any questions?" They said, "Yes, we have a question. Why are all these people trying to kill each other?" They couldn't figure it out. What on earth is happening? And that's the question that James is asking right here. Where do these wars come from? From where come war? "From whence come wars and fightings among you?"

Now what James does, he mentions three wars that are going on. Listen to them in James chapter 4 verses 1 through 4, "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye might consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of



the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.” And here James mentions three wars.

The very first war, **men are at war with one another**. Verse 1, “From where come wars and fightings among you.” We’re at war one with another. Oh every now and then we’ll have a truce, but a truce is that period of time when you stop to reload. That’s all a truce is. Every now and then we’ll have a truce, but there is no peace, religious, economic, racial, social, political, family or personal peace. We are a people at war on the face of this globe.

Well, why are men at war with one another? Well, continue to read, “Come they not hence, even of lusts that **war in you members?**” That’s the second war. The first war is that we war among ourselves. Why do we war among ourselves? Because we’re at war within ourselves. That’s what James said. There is a war on the inside that wars in our members. People are not at peace. And that’s the reason they can’t be at peace with anyone else. Most of the folks are a fight going somewhere to happen. They just an argument going somewhere to happen. Why? Because they’re in turmoil themselves. We live in a world that is uptight and full of turmoil.

Finish these sentences for me. Let’s see if you can do it. I’m ready to throw in the... [towel]. You got that one right. I’m at the end of my... [rope]. I’m just a bundle of... [nerves]. My life is falling... [apart]. I’m at my wits... [end]. See, you know them all. Don’t you? All right. I mean, here are people. Folks, we’re just full of turmoil. And James says the war on the outside is because of the war on the inside.

Well, why the war on the outside, and why the war on the inside? Because of the third war. And that is **we are at war with God**. Look in James 4 verse 4, where he says, “Friendship with the world is enmity,” and that word means warfare, “with God.” See, we’re at war with one another why? Because we’re at war in here. And why are we at war in here? Because we are at war with God. And Isaiah 48 verse 22, “‘There is no peace,’ saith my God, ‘to the wicked.’” Now my dear friend, until you’re right with God in this world, you’re going to be a trouble maker, and not a peace maker. Just put it down big and plain and straight. Until you’re right with God, in this world, you’re going to be a trouble maker, and not a peace maker. Now the Bible says in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the sons of God.”

First thing I want you to see today, **the attributes of peace**. What do we mean by peace? Peace my friend, is not appeasement. Don’t get the idea, if you’re a peace maker, that you are an appeaser. Appeasement never brings peace. And don’t think that you’re honor bound to get along with everybody. There is something wrong, something desperately wrong with the person who can get along with everybody. You just can’t do it. Now, you can try. The Bible says in Romans 12:18, “If it be possible, as much as lie within you, be at peaceably with all men.” Which means that it’s not always possible. As a matter of fact, sometimes, you’re going to be known by the enemies you make.

Dr. Robert G. Lee, the former pastor of this church, was a great man. But he had his enemies, and he had people who didn’t love him. Every man of God has those who don’t love him. I’ve heard Dr. Lee say on more than one occasion, he said, “One of these days somebody’s going to preach my funeral.” Well literally, I preached his funeral, but I didn’t know that I would when I heard him say that years ago. But he said, “One of these days, somebody’s going to preach my funeral,” and he said, “When I’m in that coffin, when I’m in that casket, if that preacher has the nerve, the audacity to say, ‘Here lies dear old Dr. Lee, he didn’t have an enemy.’” He said, “I pray God He’ll give me the courage to kick the lid off that coffin, rise



up and say, 'That's a lie!'" He didn't want to be known as a man who did not have an enemy. All of us who stand for God will have enemies.

I remember reading about some preacher boy who was in a class in a liberal college, and the professor was telling us, "Oh we ought never to have any enemies, we ought never to be controversial, there ought never to be any problems, and so forth, and what he was giving was the gospel of appeasement." And then he said, "What we need to do is to follow the example of Jesus." And that young preacher boy lifted his hand, he said, "Professor, if Jesus Christ were so beautifully tactful, and diplomatic, how did He manage to get Himself crucified?" Friend, listen, Jesus Christ did not get along with everybody, and everybody did not get along with Jesus Christ. And peace is not appeasement, and peace is not truce-making. Now you can have a truce, and a truce is better than hot war perhaps. But that only means that is the succession of hostilities. And there can still be a cold war. It goes underground to fester and to grow. And then perhaps to break out again.

Peace is not even the absence of war of any kind, hot or cold. There's no strife in a cemetery, but that, incidentally, that's not peace. And every now and then you'll go in a cemetery and you see where it says on the head stone, "Rest in Peace." Well friend, I want to tell you, it takes more than a grave marker to bring peace to a troubled soul. Peace is not just simply the absence of war. When the Bible uses the word peace, the word peace is not a negative word, the absence of war. It is a positive word. In the Old Testament, and today, modern Jews greet one another the same way with the word "Shalom, Shalom", and that word means peace. Not, when you meet somebody and you say to them "Shalom", that doesn't mean, "May you get out of war." It infers there's something good, something wonderful, something positive that is happening. The Greek word for peace is the word eirene, we get our beautiful name Irene from that. If your name is Irene, your name means peace, peace. Eirene, that's the word he is using here, it is a positive word.

Now my dear friend, let me tell you what peace is. Peace is not appeasement. Peace is not truce making. Peace is not even merely the absence of war. What is peace? Peace is a right relationship, listen carefully because this is a technical point, but a very important point. Peace is a right relationship with God that leads to right relationship with self, and guides us in a right relationship with other people. That's what peace is. It is a sense of well-being and literally, literally, peace is the result and fruit of righteousness. Now, if you don't see anything else, I want you to get this now. I want you to see how righteousness and peace are linked. This is not an artificial link. If you're an unrighteous person, you can never have peace. "There is no peace," saith my God, "to the wicked." Isaiah 48 verse 22. The only way that you can have peace is to have righteousness. Notice the beatitudes, "Blessed are the pure in heart," and then "Blessed are the peacemakers." There is no peace without purity.

Put these verses down in your margin. First of all, James 3 verse 17, "The wisdom that is from above is first pure, and then peaceable." Did you get it? First purity, then peace. "Blessed are the pure in heart." "Blessed are the peacemakers." The wisdom that is from above is first pure, and then peaceful. Put this one down, Psalm 85 and verse 10, "Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed one another." Isn't that a great verse? "Righteousness and peace have kissed one another." There's a love affair between righteousness and peace. There is a marriage between righteousness and peace, and the Bible says in Matthew 19:6, "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."



In Hebrews chapter 7 and verse 2, the Bible shows that Melchizedek is a picture, a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. And Melchizedek is called two things, first of all king of righteousness, and secondly king of peace. First, He must be king of righteousness, after He is king of righteousness, then He becomes king of peace. You see, righteousness and peace have kissed one another. My dear friend, you cannot have peace without righteousness. What is peace? Peace is a right relationship with God, a right relationship, therefore, in your heart, and a right relationship with one another. It is a positive thing. It is the righteousness of God ruling and reigning in your heart. Now that my dear friend, is the attribute of peace.

Secondly, not only do I want you to see the attribute of peace, but I want you to see the **adversary of peace**. It follows as night follows day, if peace is linked with righteousness, then war, lack of peace is always rooted in sin. It always is. Let me give you these verses, Isaiah chapter 48 and verse 22, “‘There is no peace,’ saith the Lord, ‘unto the wicked.’” That’s it. You want peace. This world wants peace. My dear friend, sin is the problem. Can you imagine, standing up in the Pentagon, and saying, “Gentlemen, the problem is sin”? Can you imagine standing up in one of the great universities and saying “Gentlemen the problem is sin”? People are saying, “What are we going to do about war? What are we going to do about all of these problems?” Ladies and gentlemen, “‘There is no peace,’ saith my God, ‘to the wicked.’” Righteousness and peace are linked together. Sin separates men from God. Sin brings inner turmoil, and it separates men from men.

Here’s another verse, Jeremiah 8:11, key verse, “For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my peace slightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace; when there is no peace.’” Do you remember back in the sixties, when the hippies were going around saying, “Peace brother, peace brother.” But my dear friend, they were living ungodly immoral lives. There can be no peace without the Prince of Peace. There can be no peace without purity. And so the Bible says in Jeremiah that people give a false peace, saying, “‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.”

And then he says in Jeremiah 8 verse 12, “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush.” We have a group of people today say, yelling, “Peace.” And they can’t even blush over their sins. Did you know that a human being is the only animal that can blush? And friend, he’s the one that needs to. But we’ve forgotten how to blush. Here are these people going around saying, “Peace, peace, peace.” The Bible says, they’ve committed abominations. This generation of unblushables, wondering why we don’t have peace. It’s very obvious, the adversary of peace is sin. That’s the reason the Bible does not teach peace at any price.

One of the strangest verses that ever fell from the lips of the Prince of Peace, Jesus, is this, Matthew 10 verse 34. He said, “Think not that I’ve come to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.” That’s incredible because the Bible calls Him the Prince of Peace. I mean, He’s known as the Prince of Peace. When He was born, the angels said in Luke 2:14, “Peace on earth; good will to men.” The Bible says in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the Sons of God.” And yet in this passage, Matthew 10:34, Jesus Christ said, “Don’t think I came to send peace. I didn’t come to send peace, I came to send a sword.” What’s He talking about? He is saying, “I did not come to bring some sort of a false peace and amalgamation of good and evil. I came with a sword to put a line of demarcation between truth and error, between light and dark, between sin and righteousness.”

And what Jesus is saying is this that when God’s standard of righteousness is set, there will always be a division. Without righteousness, there can be no godly peace. And the sword that Jesus has is like a



scalpel. It must first hurt before it heals. Peace can never come, are you listening, peace can never come where sin remains. God will never make a peace treaty with sin. Never!

I remember reading years ago in history about Admiral Nelson, the great admiral, he'd won a sea battle, and there was a French admiral who was surrendering to Lord Nelson. And that French admiral came, and he was dressed up in all of his regalia, with his special hat, he had all of those scrambled eggs on his shoulders and he came with spit and polish to approach Lord Nelson on the deck of a ship. He had his sword down by his side, in the scabbard. I guess it would be on this side. I don't know which side. But he had that sword hanging there. And Lord Nelson saw him coming. Remember now, he was coming to surrender. And that admiral with almost a smile on his face as an equal, put out his hand to Lord Nelson. Lord Nelson just stepped back and said, "Your sword first." Lay down your sword.

My dear friend, there're a lot of people who just think they can walk up and glad hand the Lord Jesus Christ, He says "Your sword first." Surrender first. Jesus my dear friend, is not an appeaser, and He will never make a truce with sin. Never. To that degree Jesus said, "Don't think that I came to send peace; I came to send a sword." What He meant by that is this, there will be no peace, there can never be peace without first of all a surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Now here's the third thing I want you to see. I've talked to you about the attribute of peace, which is righteousness. I've talked to you about the adversary of peace, which is sin. "There is no peace,' saith my Lord, 'to the wicked.'" Now I want to talk to you about the **attainment of peace**. I've said you can't buy it in that supermarket. You can't buy it in that mall. How can you attain peace? Let me give you some wonderful news.

First of all this peace has been **planned by the Father**. Jeremiah 29 and verse 11, if you don't know this verse, you need to learn it. Jeremiah 29 verse 11, "'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,' saith the Lord, 'thoughts of peace.'" "'I know the thoughts that I have toward you, I think toward you,' saith the Lord, 'thoughts of peace, not of evil. To give you an expected end.'" You know when God thinks of you, you know what God wants for you? Peace. This is what God desires for you. God's thoughts to you are not thoughts of malevolence. God is not some vengeful deity sitting up there on the throne, making a lot of rules and laws that make you squirm like a worm in hot ashes, trying to keep them, throwing down thunder bolts of wrath. That's not the idea of God. God says, "The thoughts I have toward you, the things that I think to you, the plans that I have for you, they're plans of peace." Six times in the New Testament He is called the God of Peace. In the book of Judges, Judges chapter 6 and verse 24, He is called Jehovah Shalom. Jehovah Shalom, the Lord our Peace. Peace, peace has been planned by the Father.

Secondly, are you listening? **Peace has been purchased by the Son**. Planned by the Father, purchased by the Son. Put these verses down, Ephesians 2 verses 13 and 14, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace." You who were far off. You who were enemies. You are made near nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace.

Then put this one down. Colossians 1 verses 19 and 20, "For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell;" that is in the Lord Jesus Christ, "and having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself." Jesus Christ on the cross, provided this peace. How does the cross bring peace? At the cross wickedness was not appeased, wickedness was confronted. At the cross sin was not overlooked. At the cross sin was atoned, and paid for. And God's greatest righteousness,



confronted man's greatest wickedness. And righteousness won, and peace was attained. Through the blood of the cross. Thank God for that. Thank God for that. I say, Thank God for that.

A lady lay dying. Some people did not know her very well, she was a stranger in those parts, and they thought they ought to witness to her. One came and stood by her bedside and said, "Madame, do you know how ill you are?" She said, "Yes, I believe I am dying." They said, "Well, we don't want to alarm you, but have you made peace with God?" She said, "No." They said, "May we help you to make peace with God?" She said, "No." "Don't you realize you're dying?" "Yes." "Don't you want to make peace with God?" She said, "No." She said, "I have no need to make peace with God. I am resting in the peace that Jesus made at Calvary." She was way ahead of them. I am resting in the peace that Jesus made! We don't make peace; Jesus made peace the blood of His cross.

Now listen, it was planned by the Father. God says, I know the plans I have for you, the plans of peace. Purchased by the Son. And my dear friend, I want to tell you, it is **provided by the Spirit**, the Holy Spirit of God. You see, the Bible says in Galatians chapter 5 and verse 22, "The fruit of the Spirit is peace." It's provided by the Spirit. Remember Jesus in John Chapter 14 and verse 16? Jesus said, "I'm going to pray to the Father and He'll send you another Comforter, that He may abide with you." "And He's going to teach you all things. Bring them into your remembrance." Verse 26. And then He says in verse 27, "Peace I leave with you. My peace give I unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." It's the Holy Spirit that brings this to our hearts and minds. He's the one who gives us this peace in our hearts, and that tells us we're at peace with God.

Planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, provided by the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is the executor of the will of Jesus Christ. Jesus' last will and testament before He died, He said to you, "Peace I give unto you." That's what He left you. That's His legacy my dear friend, His peace. And then He said, "Not as the world giveth, give I unto you." It's peace as the old song says, "The world didn't give and the world can't take away." The world didn't give it to me, and the world can't take it from me. It is the peace that passes understanding. No psychologist, no psychiatrist, without Jesus Christ, could have any understanding of this my dear friend.

Now last of all. Look at our text, and it says, very, very wonderfully. Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the Sons of God." Let me talk to you last of all about the **agents of peace**. We have talked to you about the attribute of peace, the adversary of peace, the attainment of peace. Now here's the agent of peace, and that's me, that's you; we are God's agents. I saw a cartoon in a magazine one time that in a preacher's study there was his file, you know this four drawer file. And in the one next to the top, it said, "Sacred". And in the one right at the very top it said "Top Sacred". Well dear friend, you are a sacred agent. You are a sacred agent 777. Well, you are God's agent of peace. Now that's so true. You are an ambassador.

Do you know what we said the peace is? It is reconciliation. And the Bible says in Second Corinthians chapter 5 verse 18, "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Christ to Himself by Jesus Christ." We've been saved, we've been given peace. And then He says, "And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." That's our ministry. Oh my dear friend, what is the ministry of reconciliation? It's just simply soul-winning. It's just simply telling people about Jesus. He's given to us the ministry of reconciliation.



I was invited to Washington for an inauguration, and after the inauguration, I got in a cab, and I came out the door, you know where I had been a guest there, at a particular building. And the cab driver thought I was important because of the door I came out. He said, "What do you do?" I said, "I am an ambassador." Boy he looked up. He was impressed, you know. And so, after a while he said, "Who do you represent?" I said, "A king." Boy He was really impressed. You know and we went on a while back, and he said, "Well who is He?" I said, "He's the greatest." Well, on and on, I just toyed with him for a while, and then I told Him, I'm a son of God, an ambassador of Jesus Christ, and an emissary of peace. And I preached Christ to that young man, and my dear friend, I want to tell you, I had rather be an ambassador for Jesus, than to be a prince or King here on this earth. We are ambassadors for Christ. He has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. The grandest thing, the greatest thing you can ever do, is to receive the peace that Jesus Christ made on the cross. And let the peace of God rule and reign in your heart, and then be not just simply a peace lover, but my dear friend, a peacemaker. Not an appeaser, not making peace with sin and unrighteousness, but lifting up the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you have peace? Corrie Ten Boom said, "You look around, you'll be distressed." She said, "If you look within you'll be depressed." But she said, "If you look to Jesus you'll be at rest." That's where the peace comes. Do you have peace with God? Do you? Remember you'll never have peace till something's done about this problem of sin.

Heads are bowed, and eyes are closed, no one stirring. Father God, I pray today that you'd help us to understand how to be peacemakers. And Lord we know that we cannot make peace until first of all we've received peace, and rest in the finished peace of Calvary. Now if you don't have peace with God, the Bible says "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord." You're not justified any other way but by trusting Christ, justified by faith. Today if you'll trust Him, then you can have peace with God, and then peace with yourself, and peace with others.

If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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