

Matthew 5:9

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Many Bible students enjoy reading scriptures from the section that is generally called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 through 7 in the book of Matthew).

When Christ saw the multitude, He went up on a mountain (Matthew 5:1). When He was seated, His disciples came to Him (same verse). Then, He began to teach them (verse 2). Today, let's look at Matthew 5:9.

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

Sowing peace

Bible students are aware that the Scriptures encourage people to sow peace.

Luke 17:1—"Then He said to the disciples, 'It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!' "

The Son of God mentioned two ideas. First, it is impossible to avoid all offense or conflict. Second, we should seek to avoid causing offense or conflict.

The apostle Peter explained the distinction in his first epistle collected in the canon.

1 Peter 4:15-16—"But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."

The actions of being a peacemaker may at first glance be considered as being passive. However, it takes strength and commitment to be a peacemaker.

Romans 12:17-21—"Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. Therefore 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

2 Timothy 4:14—"Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works."

It is honorable when disciples seek peace and edification.

Romans 14:19—"Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another."

Called sons of God

Many Bible students understand that believers being called the sons of God will be fulfilled in two ways.

■ First, many people realize that believers are called sons of God during their physical life on earth.

Romans 8:14-17—"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit [itself] bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together."

2 Corinthians 6:18—"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Philippians 2:14-15—"Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

■ Second, many people also look forward to receiving eternal life in God's Kingdom and to be called sons of God at that time.

Ephesians 3:14-15—"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."