

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for March 18, 1984

Blessed Are the Persecuted
Part 1
Matthew 5:10-12
Dale Whitehead

1. Persecution of Christians:

Christians by their nature will be persecuted. Persecution is a natural consequence of being Christian.

Transition **verse 9** to **verse 10** peacemakers to persecution. Effort to be the peacemaker dealing with issues that bring conflict brings about opposition and persecution.

The answer to troubles and conflict is Christ. **2 Corinthians 5: 17-18** and **John 15:18-27**

We will bear witness as Christ bore witness and we will be hated as Christ was hated. Our witness is being the witness of Christ. When those we witness to do not make peace with God they will not be at peace with us and will turn on us.

The same witness given to a brother in sin will bring persecution if that brother will not make peace with God. **Philippians 1:29**

We are New Testament prophets preaching the message of God; repent for the kingdom of God is at hand. Hell is a reality and should be presented as such.

2. The response of Christians:

We cannot be sneaky Christians living in peace with sin.

I will be to this world what God will have me to be. I will say to the world what Christ will have me to say.