

CONFIRMATION
“The Way of Glory: Persecution”
1-21-07

Text: Matthew 5:10-11

“¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”

Can you be a cause of great dissension on one hand and an advocate of peace on the other? If you read “THE BEATITUDES” correctly you can. You hear it from the lips of Jesus Himself when He said He came as the Prince of Peace, yet *“did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”* (Matthew 10:34).

All the virtues of “THE BEATITUDES” are intolerable to a fallen world.

HEADING FOR THE GOAL LINE....

To the degree that you & I fulfill the first seven BEATITUDES, we will experience the eighth.

In 303, Emperor Diocletian ordered the suppression of Christianity.....

Seven plus centuries later, Ramon Lull from Majorca would cross the Mediterranean to North Africa four times to take the Gospel to the Muslims.....

In early seventeenth-century England, religious persecution played a major role in the founding of America.....

Puritan John Bunyan’s imprisonment gave us *The Pilgrim’s Progress....*

George Wishart, a Scot, was a missionary in his own country....

Muslim men in Pakistan regularly take advantage of Christian women with little to no response from the authorities....

Bhutan, the only Buddhist kingdom in the world, prohibits the open practice of Christianity....

Christlikeness produces the same reaction now as it did when Jesus was on earth..... even though Jesus was the most loving, magnanimous, gracious, kind, peaceful person who ever lived.

Living the redeemed life and seeing the antagonism of a godless world is CONFIRMATION that our salvation is genuine.

THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

The challenge we face in ever-increasing measure is to swallow the watchword of our times:

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