

# Edward Christian Church

**July 27,  
2014**

# “B8”

# Blessed are the Persecuted

# ***“Let Go of My Ego”***

# Peace-Makers

## *"The 7th Step To Happiness"*

# **Vitamins are Beneficial**

**B Vitamins have been used for years for:**

- **Energy**
- **Outlook**
- **Strength**

**Jesus Gives us some B Vitamins for:**

- **Energy**
- **Outlook**
- **Strength**

**They are Called ...the Beatitudes**

# Blessed = Happy



**Matt 5:10**, *"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*

the last 2 Beatitudes are actually 2 parts of the same

**Blessed= Happy**

**Persecuted=**

***...Chased After***

***...Means I'm Still in Front!***

***"True Happiness comes from Knowing I am ...***

***...making a Noticeable Difference in the Kingdom***



# Persecution

**Persecution is...**

- **Chased after- *to Pursue***
- **Trouble**
- **Harassment**
- **Pressed - Tight Place**
- **Drive Away**
  
- **How Can We Handle Persecution in a Way that...**
  - **Brings Honor to God**
  - **Brings Conviction to the Persecutor**
  - **Brings God's Peace to the Persecuted**



# **Persecution**

**Remember...**

**...When the Heat is On and**

**...You Think God Has Forgotten**

**God is More Concerned with...**

**...your Character**

**...than your Comfort**

## **Persecution is Negative and Positive**

### **Negative (satan)...**

- **Demands Attention...**
  - ...Can't be Ignored**
  - ...Reveals your weakness**
- **Direction Changes**
  - ...Meant to Drive Off Course**



### **Positive (God)...**

- **Demands Attention...**
  - ... Can't be Ignored**
  - ...Reveals God's Strength**
- **Direction Changes**
  - ...Meant to Drive Back On Course (Acts)**

# **We Need an Attitude of “Endurance”**

**In this World know that Whatever You Do...**

**...you will be Criticized**

**...and Persecuted**

**...Even if You Do Nothing**

**Let it Be for Doing the Right Thing  
(righteousness sake)**

- ◆ **Satan doesn't want us doing the Right Thing**
- ◆ **Persecution is sent to Stop the Right Thing**
- ◆ **God Gives us Power to Keep Doing...**  
**...the Right Thing!**





# Recognize the “Source”



**Eph 6:12** (NKJV) *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”*

**God is the Enemy of Satan—But Satan Cannot Attack God...**

**...so Attacks the Next Best Thing –God’s Creation**

- **Revelation 12:10** Satan is *“The accuser of our brothers”*
- So He will use Any / Every Means to Attack You
- If He can’t get to you –He’ll attack anyone you care for

**Because he knows that if he hurts the ones you love – he’ll be hurting you.**



# Refuse to “Retaliate”



*“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Try to do what is honorable in everyone’s eyes. If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone. Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay, says the Lord.” -Romans 12:17-19 (HCSB)*

**Jesus was Accused of being a Drunk, a Glutton...**

**...Friend of Sinners, Blasphemer , Working thru Satan**

- He Refused to Retaliate
- He Left Room for God
- He Had Faith that God Had This!
- When you’re Persecuted – Harassed – Mistreated because your a Christian – you need to bBelieve that God is Big Enough to Take Care of it Someday.
  - Refuse to Retaliate – Leave Room for God

# Respond “**Positively**”



*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”*  
**Romans 12:21 (NKJV)**

## **When Evil Attacks Us – We Are to Respond with Good.**

- Is it Normal for you to Return Good When...
- ...Your Under Attack?

## **When You Are Persecuted /You Retaliate – Who Is In Control?**

- They are! They are pushing your buttons / to negative
- You say "You make me mad! or Look what you made me do!"
- You're telling them - they have Control of Your Emotions
- **Here Is What Jesus Tells Us To Do:**
- *“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to*
- *those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you*
- *and persecute you,”* **Matthew 5:44 (NKJV)**
  - **Jesus says, “Don’t React – Respond in Love”**



# Rest in God's **“Protection**

*“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret--it only causes harm. For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth.”*

**Psalms 37:7-9 (NKJV)**

**Story of David it is a Story of Persecution and Harassment?**

- **King Saul**
- **Ziglag**
- **Absalom**
- **David had to Run, Hide. David knew Harassment and yet...**
- *“Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him...”* **Psalms 37:7**
- **God Knows it, Sees it and He Cares**



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**Remember:**

*"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* **Matthew 5:10 (NKJV)**

**On Earth**

Great Peace

Needs Met

**The Day is Coming**

Eternal Peace

All that Heaven Has is Yours



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**God Smiles.**