



The Glory of Persecution #1

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We are entering into the concluding portion of the Beatitudes. And it is with more than a little bit of bitter sweetness in my soul that I do so because my private study to prepare for these messages has been so rich. I am going to miss it, but I trust that the Lord has other things for us in the days to come.

My clearest recollection of my first episode with persecution involved my departed father. I had been a Christian for a number of months and I wasn't particularly aggressive in sharing Christ with him. But something about the transformation that the Holy Spirit had worked in my heart offended him.

My dad, you would need to know, was a dominating, intimidating kind of sort—so much so that he once disarmed a sheriff's deputy who had pulled a gun on him. He took the gun from the sheriff's deputy and smashed it on the ground into about a thousand pieces. That was the kind of guy that my dad was. He was used to getting his way in our family and in any other place.

The one thing that my dad could not do was handle a spiritual conversation. He was a fish out of water when it came to that. But one day he wanted to address my faith. So he is sitting there, squirming and nervous. He had his intimidation hat on. He said, "Donnie, I've always been real proud of you. You've always been one to go after things with all your energy and put everything that you have into it.

"Now I'm glad" (he started getting nervous here) "you're real religious. But you've taken it too far and I want it to stop." He looked at me with the sense of expectation that I was going to comply and salute and say, "Yes, Dad." But the response he got from me was much different.

I said, "Dad, no. Jesus Christ has changed my life. I am not going to stop following him"—the implication being you can intimidate every other place, but you cannot intimidate my conscience. I'm redeemed by the blood of Christ and that's the way it's going to stay.

That led to some other interesting family discussions in the hours that followed that I don't have time to go into. But it was my first taste of real persecution for the cause of Christ. Admittedly, it was mild. But I had done nothing to earn his disfavor or offend him in any objective way. Because he hated Christ, he did not like the direction my life and he sought to bring influence upon it.

It was a glorious time—not because my dad was upset with me, but because I was excited to know I belonged to Christ. That kind of persecution was a sure seal of approval of the reality of my faith.

That is the way every act of persecution upon us should strike us.

We come to the eighth and final beatitude here. We are about to embark on a two-week study on persecution. The glory of persecution taken from Matthew 5:10-12. So I invite you to turn there with me. Jesus said at the conclusion of the Beatitudes:

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is a glorious text. I am almost short of breath because I am so excited to be able to preach it to you. What we are going to do today and next week is to ask and answer six key questions about persecution in the life of the believer. Depending on how much I stray from my notes, we will get through the first three of those today and then we will finish them up next week.

The first question I will raise for your consideration and for your notes is this:

1. Will True Christians Be Persecuted?

Will true Christians without exception be persecuted? The answer to that question is yes—unqualified, unconditional yes. In some manner or form, persecution is inevitable for the true believer. We know this at least for three different reasons.

a. The Report of the Beatitudes

The first reason that we know that true Christians will be persecuted is *the report of the Beatitudes*. The report of the Beatitudes make very clear to us that true Christians will be persecuted.

When Jesus says “theirs is the kingdom of heaven,” as I have said with every single beatitude, Jesus again is using an emphatic pronoun in the Greek language to say “Theirs (these people who are persecuted) *and theirs alone* is the kingdom of heaven.”

The kingdom of heaven belongs only to those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness and for the sake of Christ. They and they alone will be the ones who enter into eternal life. The emphatic personal pronoun makes that clear. It sums up everything else that Jesus has been saying about the exclusivity of this kind of character.

There is no back door. The front door and the only door into the kingdom of heaven is one that has persecution written above the doorway. That's how we enter in. "Through many tribulations you must enter into the kingdom of heaven."

But there is another aspect about the Beatitudes that makes this clear. Notice in verse 3. I didn't read it, but we studied it in the past, notice in verse 3 that Jesus said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And then in verse 10 again he says:

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Notice how the Beatitudes are bracketed by that phrase, "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Now I don't want to be technical, but Jesus here is using a rhetorical device known as an inclusio. Here is why it is important for you.

That beginning and ending phrase functions like an envelope. It gathers up everything in between into one place so that everything from the beginning of the Beatitudes to the end describes the same person—the person who belongs to the kingdom of heaven. The characteristics of each beatitude marks—at one stage or another, in one form or another—every true believer. There is no such thing as a believer who is not somehow marked by the characteristics described in the Beatitudes.

The emphasis that Jesus uses, "theirs and theirs alone," over and over and over again makes that very clear. He couldn't have stated it in any more plainly if he had tried.

Here is what that means: These eight character qualities that we have gone through and that Jesus blesses are a single unit meant to describe every citizen of the kingdom. The Beatitudes are not eight separate, distinct classes as if the poor in spirit were one group and then you have those who were persecuted some place else who have nothing to do with each other. The Beatitudes are not a cafeteria. You don't come to the Beatitudes and pick and choose the ones that you want.

No. The Beatitudes go together as a unit. They show the comprehensive nature of Christian character. They are like a single rainbow that displays several different colors in the spectrum. One rainbow with different colors animating that same rainbow—so it is with the Beatitudes.

And so as we study them, we should realize that Jesus is saying that every characteristic here in the Beatitudes eventually marks every citizen of the kingdom. This person—and this person alone will inherit the promise that is given in these beatitudes.

That is one of the reasons why the Beatitudes are so searching. We understand that we fall short of these things. Many of us look at our lives and say, "I haven't really suffered for Christ." And it starts to humble us and make us ask questions.

I plead with you not to avoid those questions. You need to let these questions echo in your mind and reverberate in your conscience. Let the Spirit of God do his work in response to his truth. Let them convict you. Let them drive you to your knees. Let them say, "God, what about me? God, I fall so far short." You need to let that happen.

Now why am I making such a point about that here? This beatitude about persecution is just as much an exclusive description of the character of the true believer as the other beatitudes that we more easily embrace. Some of these beatitudes you can embrace in your prayer closet whether anyone knows it or not.

Confession of sin, check. Hungering and thirsting for righteousness, check. Pure of heart? "I fall a little short, but I got it, Pastor."

Persecution? "Yeah, well, you know the Lord has just really prospered me. And I try to get along with everybody as best as I can."

No. Don't deceive yourself, beloved. This is the expectation Jesus says would be true at one point or another in the life of every true believer. The structure of these beatitudes wraps all of these characteristics up into an undivided whole.

You don't get to pick and choose them. You don't get to excuse yourself when something is missing. So if the Spirit of God has shot an arrow into your heart on these things, you need to let that arrow find its mark and respond to it, not run from it.

Here is why that's important. Jesus says that persecution would be the lot of every true Christian at one time or another. Somewhere in your life, you will suffer for being a Christian. And to that, I look at our lives and how we live and the things that we talk about and I can only say, "Ouch!"

Talking about us collectively in the walls of this room, we have it pretty good. Materially, some of us more than others, but compared to the rest of the world, we've got it pretty good. I'm not begrudging that. I'm not condemning that. Every good and perfect gift comes from above. God has blessed us.

But beloved, when you read that persecution is definitely a mark of a true believer, you have to ask yourself the question, "Where has persecution for the sake of Christ been a part of my life?" And maybe for some of you, you can come up with a long list just like that.

For others, you say, "I don't know." You have to deal with that. We have to ask ourselves some hard questions. How is it that we can say that we follow a crucified

Christ, one who suffered and bled on our behalf and not have any cost? That doesn't make sense. That's completely illogical.

We will talk about that more. But I just want you to see that this is a major issue. You can't just brush it aside and say, "Well, that doesn't apply to me"--it does if you claim the name of Christ.

Now unless you think I am making too much of a rhetorical device in the report of the Beatitudes, let me show you another way that we know that persecution will certainly come in the life of the true believer. It is not just the grammar here in the Beatitudes, although grammar teaches that plainly. We can also look at *the record of Scripture*.

b. The Record of Scripture

You don't need to turn to this verse, but as Paul was writing his spiritual swan song to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:12, he said: "Timothy, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." The word of God tells us that persecution will be the lot of true Christians, every one of them.

The fact that we don't suffer much for Christ, beloved, is not an indication that things are okay. If we are not suffering for Christ corporately or individually, we need to ask ourselves why. If the Bible says everyone who desires to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, why is it that I have it so easy? You go to God on your knees and say, "God, I'm not comfortable with this. I'm not comfortable with my comfort because the scriptures tell me to expect something different if I'm a true believer."

So if we in America do not know much about this, we have to ask ourselves a question. "What? Did Jesus get it wrong?"

Maybe Jesus messed up. Maybe he wasn't thinking about the Great Land of the Free that would come 2000 years later.

Now that's absurd. Maybe over the past two decades our preoccupation with being seeker-friendly has taken us off the path of righteousness. When we are courting the favor of the people who should be persecuting us, something is greatly wrong. Something is fundamentally turned upside down in that picture. Who is going to persecute you if you are going to give them what they want?

It is absurd. It is an abandonment of what the Bible says Christian life should look like. Something is fundamentally wrong.

The popularity and the explosion of their millions of books doesn't change that one bit. Who cares? If they are building numbers in the wrong way, the way that takes them away from persecution, I don't care what their numbers are. Luke 6:26 says:

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.

Sooner or later, we got to come to grips with what Jesus says. Stop listening to the marketers. Stop looking at the sales reports. Stop looking at best seller lists. Come back to the simple words of Jesus in all of their clarity and pristine sureness and get the picture straight from the Scripture about what the Christian life is supposed to look like.

From *that* starting point we say, “Now what’s going on around me?”

Listen, the approval of sinful man is hardly proof of divine favor. The fact that 25 so-called evangelicals were listed as most influential evangelicals in *Time* magazine recently does not say anything about the state of the Christian church.

Nothing.

But with all of that said, let’s not leave the issue out there with other churches in other areas. Let’s not merely evaluate movements that don’t dominate what we deal with here within our walls. I need to ask this question: What about you, beloved? What about you my friend in Christ? What do you know about persecution in your own personal life? What do you know about that? When did it last cost you to be a Christian? Those are the kinds of questions that this beatitude provokes.

As I have said, that should immediately create some soul searching. That should immediately create the sense of unease for many of us. No matter how you answer that question, we need to come to grips with what it says because being persecuted is one of the necessary marks of the true Christian. If the Spirit of God needs to convict us on this point, then let him convict us. I want to deal with him in truth and righteousness and not on any basis. I don’t want to protect myself here and you shouldn’t want to protect yourselves, either.

Remember, we started out with the beatitude saying that “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” those who are spiritually bankrupt, who say I have no merit before God. And so what that means is that if you are a true Christian, you understand that. You have done away with yourself. You are not trying to protect that old man any more. You just come to the Scriptures and say, “God, conform me to what you want me to be. I am clay in your hands. Shape me and do whatever you want.”

So we know that our first question, “Will persecution come for all true Christians” is answered “yes” based on the report of the Beatitudes and the record of scripture.

c. The Resentment of Sinners

But there is a third reason that we know that persecution is inevitable and that is this: *the resentment of sinners*. This is very important for us to talk about as we are kind of closing our study on the Beatitudes.

If you think superficially, you might suspect that people who have the character expressed in the Beatitudes would be well-liked and appreciated. I mean, if I want to be a peacemaker with you, what could you possibly have against me? Why would you react against that? If I am humble and I am mourning over my sin and I am conscious of my lack of merit before God, what could possibly provoke people to persecution? That's the question.

But this character leads to persecution just like it did for Jesus. Turn to the gospel of John 15:18. Jesus, talking to his disciples, said:

If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Remember the words that I said to you, a slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for my name's sake because they do not know the one who sent me.

Here is Jesus at the end of his earthly life, on the eve of his crucifixion, having known the persecution and the opposition and the ill will of the vast majority of people who were around him, in all of his perfection and sinless character, and they hated him. They persecuted him.

Jesus says, if they persecuted me, they are going to persecute you. As a true disciple, as a slave after his master, if they persecuted the master, the dominos lined up behind him are going to fall also—fall in the sense of being persecuted.

Persecution is inevitable for true believers because the cross is a stumbling block. True persecution for the Christ-like believer is inevitable because the world hates Christ. Sinful men hate him. Despite the external veneer that they may paint for a time, when it comes down to the roots of it, they hate Christ and therefore they are going to hate his followers also. True Christian character, the character of the Beatitudes, echoes the character of Christ and is an aroma unto death for people who are perishing. They don't like the aroma and so they get rid of it.

Sinclair Ferguson helpfully says on this point:

Christians are persecuted for the sake of righteousness because of their loyalty to Christ. Real loyalty to him creates friction in the hearts of those who pay him only lip service. Loyalty arouses their conscience and leaves them with only two alternatives; follow Christ or silence him. Often their only way of silencing Christ is by silencing his servants. Persecution in subtle or less subtle forms is the result.

They hate Christ. As you become like Christ, as you develop these beatitude characteristics in your heart and in your life, there is going to be a reaction against it.

That is why this is so searching, beloved. That is a guaranteed spiritual reality. That is straight from the lips of Jesus. I am not pulling out any Latin grammar on you to make this point. Jesus said this is the way it is for my true disciples.

And so beloved, the real tragedy is not that we are persecuted to the extent that we are. That's not a tragedy. The real tragedy for most of us is that we are persecuted so little. Are we so isolated in our Christian bubble that we are sealed off from persecution? Is our righteousness so weak that people don't notice the contrast? Are we so like the world in immersing ourselves in its morals and entertainment that we are simply no longer distinct?

That's the tragedy. The tragedy is not that someone rebukes you and criticizes you and lies against you because of your testimony for Christ. That's a blessing.

The real tragedy for us is why we see so little of it.

Now some of you have been following the sure path to avoid persecution although you haven't thought about it this way. If you want to avoid persecution, here is the plan—okay? If you don't like the sound of this and you don't want to raise waves, here is the plan. Here is how you can avoid it:

Start laughing at the world's humor. Dress like the world dresses. Enjoy the world's entertainment so that your conscience is dull. Stay quiet when the name of God and Christ are mocked. Just keep that to yourself. Act like all religions lead to heaven, especially Catholicism and Mormonism. Just go along with that. Don't mention hell to an unbeliever. Don't draw any moral judgments. And above all, don't share your faith. If you can follow that formula, you can probably navigate through and avoid persecution.

Of course there is only one problem with that approach. If that's the way you are going to approach it, you have to abandon your claim to be a disciple of Christ. It doesn't work that way. There are responsibilities that come with being a Christian. Part of those is naming the name of Christ. Part of it is being willing to bear the blows that they mean for Christ to come upon you.

The presence of persecution, beloved, is a sign of blessing. Jesus said that, not me. He said: "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness." So we need to gird up our loins. We need to take on some spiritual courage. We need to play the part of a man and say, "Lord, if persecution is what it takes, bring it. I am willing to face it, Lord, for your sake. The hostility of unbelievers doesn't deter me."

That establishes the answer to the first question, "Is persecution inevitable?" Yes. Persecution come to every true believer.

That raises a second question to us that we also need to answer carefully .

2. When Will Persecution Come?

If persecution is inevitable, when will it come? The answer to that question is this: There is no way to know. Look again at verse 10. Jesus says:

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

There are a couple of points that I want to make about this along with verse 11. Jesus says:

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you.

We need to carry those two phrases together and address them together.

Most of the other beatitudes have been in the present tense which indicates ongoing, continual type of action. But here in verse 10, Jesus uses a different verb tense. That is important because it does not mean that “only those who are right now experiencing persecution” belong to the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus’ language here refers to those people who experienced persecution in the past and feel the effects of it today, even if they are not presently suffering persecution .

That’s really important because I don’t want to create a false standard that is not what Jesus said. The verb tense recognizes that we may go through seasons that do not have conscious persecution associated with them. Jesus is blessing people who have in the past experienced persecution and still feel the effects of it today. He does not require present, *right now* persecution before you can validate your faith.

Maybe you are going through a season of life now where you are not being persecuted. But if you have been a Christian any length of time at all, you should be able to go back over your testimony and be able to say to yourself (as you are made sensitive to these issues) “You remember that friend I had and what he said. I remember that. That was all about my testimony to Christ. I still remember that. I still feel the effects of that.” Or, “You remember I lost my job because I wouldn’t violate the rules? I was wanting to live a righteous life.”

There should be some area in your life where you look back and you say “Now that you mention it, I do recognize that.” Just be honest with yourself. Don’t make it up.

Frankly, as I was going through this, I wish I had a long laundry list of persecutions that I could recite to you. I don’t, but there is enough. There are several instances where I can look back and say, “That was because of Christ.” It greatly blessed my heart to look back over my life and look at those things.

That's what I would encourage you to do also, because that kind of persecution validates the reality of your faith in a very significant way.

Now look back at verse 11. There is something else I want to point out to you.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you.

In this phrase, Jesus is looking forward now with an indefinite sense. It prepares you for persecution in the future without telling you when it is going to happen. It doesn't tell you how it is going to occur. It doesn't tell you what circumstances. It just says when this happens—*whenever it happens*—you are blessed. Rejoice, be glad.

And so before you get too discouraged because you haven't shed blood for the cause of Christ, consider carefully what Jesus is saying here. I want you to be convicted over the lack of persecution in your life and yet I don't want to drive you to despair.

Persecution comes in different shapes and sizes. It may be brief and mild. It may just be a passing comment. Persecution may be prolonged and painful. Jesus here includes the simple verbal insults and false accusations to show that persecution is not limited to the martyrs who died on the stake. People who are insulted for being a Christian fall under the umbrella of this blessing. People who have false statements made against them fall under the umbrella of this blessing. And so we need to be balanced about this.

The grammar here in verse 11, and the overall testimony of scripture, suggests persecution will not necessarily be the unbroken pattern of life for all believers everywhere under all circumstances.

I want to say that again because it is so easy to create a false standard and be "more biblical than the Bible." Persecution will not necessarily be the unbroken pattern of life for all believers everywhere under all circumstances.

So you may not be suffering persecution at this period in your life. That does not mean you need to immediately worry about your lack of spirituality or question your salvation. However, if you have been a Christian any meaningful length of time, you should be able to look back over your life and be able to identify incidents where you encountered difficulty specifically because of your testimony for Christ.

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted." If you haven't been persecuted, you are not blessed—right? So although persecution isn't the unbroken pattern for all times, it is inevitable and in some manner it is part of the fabric of Christian life. Someone who has never tasted opposition for being a Christian or never tasted opposition for pursuing a righteous life needs to step back and ask himself, "Am I really in the faith or not? How could I be in union with the one who was crucified, the one who was persecuted, how could I be a man or woman of the Beatitudes and not taste anything of that? That doesn't make sense."

Beloved if that's you this morning, don't let yourself off the hook. Wrestle with this earnestly before God and be broken before Him. If your first prayer in response to this is, "God, I think I fall short here," He is gentle, He is compassionate. He is full of lovingkindness for those who call upon Him. If this is convicting to you, call upon Him. He will receive you. He will hear your prayer. He will be gracious. Just don't cover it up and excuse yourself as if this didn't apply to you. Of course it applies to you.

But on the other hand (and striving for balance here), the simple fact that you are not suffering persecution right now does not mean that you are being unfaithful. Ultimately, the timing and manner of persecution is in the Lord's hands. Your first object isn't to go out and say, "I have to provoke some persecution here. Hey buddy, you on the street, come on, let's talk about Jesus!" That's not the way you respond here. This is persecution for righteousness' sake. This is persecution on account of Christ.

If you find a lack here and you are convicted over it, go back to verse 3 and go through those beatitudes of pursuing the righteousness that Jesus describes here. As your character is conformed to the image of Christ, trust the Scriptures. Persecution will come.

And when it comes, you will be ready. Persecution is part of Christian life and we embrace it because the Christian life is noble. We embrace it because Christ is great, Christ is sinless and he is Master over all. We embrace it because he shed his blood and gave his life to redeem us from our sins. We embrace it because he lived 33 years on this earth to manifest righteousness and to fulfill obedience to the law of God so that it could be charged to our account.

What a great Savior. What a great Christ. What a glorious God and Savior He is! Anything that He calls us to, any kind of suffering for His sake is chump change compared to the glory of the Christian life and the glory that waits for us in heaven.

So we need to love more deeply the eternal things of Christ and love less deeply the approval of men. Fix your affections on Christ. Fix your heart on the pursuit of righteousness and persecution will take care of itself.

So we've answered the question "Is persecution inevitable?" Yes. "When will it come?" We don't know; we just know that it will.

Third question that I want to answer here in my remaining five minutes (with 20 minutes of notes in front of me):

3. How Does Persecution Come to Us?

What does persecution look like as the Bible defines it? The answer is this: It comes in many forms, some of which are more painful than others. Look again at verse 11. Jesus said:

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Here in this final beatitude Jesus has expanded on what he said in verse 10. Notice this: In verse 10 he said, “Blessed are *those* who have been persecuted.” Third person pronoun—“those.” People out there. But now he makes it personal. He applies it directly to his disciples and he says, “Listen men. Blessed are you when people persecute you.” He is elaborating on this theme of persecution introduced in verse 10.

I hardly need to tell you that persecution has gone to bloody extremes in the church’s bloody history. The writer of Hebrews records this in Hebrews 11:36:

Others experienced mockings and scourgings. Yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword. They went about in sheepskins, in goat skins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

Painful persecution. The Bible recognizes that and church history verifies it. And even though we don’t know their names, we know there are people who have shed blood in our time in other places for the name of Christ. So we recognize the severity of persecution that can come.

But Jesus doesn’t set that kind of bloody martyrdom up as the standard here. Look at what he says in verse 11. He brings it down to a much less painful form—insults, false accusations of evil. Jesus includes audible complaints to your face and subtle innuendo behind your back as being under the umbrella of persecution. These people speak falsely. They may be unfair. They may physically abuse you. There may be imprisonment and death. There is a wide spectrum of what persecution could come. Jesus goes out of His way to include simple insults that are easier to bear than a sword through the neck.

How gracious of Him. He doesn’t limit the blessings of persecution to the extreme forms that only a few will actually experience. He lists the lighter forms of persecution, the verbal kinds that we all experience sooner or later and says, “Blessed are you. Rejoice. Be glad. Your reward in heaven is great.”

Think about that. “Lord, you mean to tell me that when people sin against me, you are going to give reward to me for that? I didn’t do anything to deserve it. They sin and I get blessed?” Yeah, that’s it. That’s grace. That’s good grace. That’s amazing grace.

So if you were insulted this week for being a Christian, set aside your hurt feelings and just recognize, “God, this is blessing. This is your favor upon me.”

So we come to the end of our time here today. Recognize this. If you follow Christ obediently, if you love him and pursue righteousness, there will be a price to be paid. You will pay a price for being a Christian.

The true believer says, “Okay. Fine. No cost is too great to follow this Christ who purchased my salvation. I won’t be the hypocrite who wants the crown but not the cross that leads to it. I won’t hold the nail of the pierced hands of Jesus with hands unscarred by the pain of persecution. Jesus, I want to follow you. If that means persecution, I submit. I just want to know you and the fellowship of your sufferings so I might know the power of the resurrection and walk with you and glorify you in this life and one day enter into that great reward that you graciously promised me.”

Is that where your heart is at today? Is that what you long and hunger for?

Let’s pray.

Father, give us that righteousness of character that will either repel men or draw them to our blessed Savior. May you give us great wisdom and understanding in these things so that if and when we are called to suffer, we may know for certain that it is for righteousness’ sake and we may have the full comfort and the abounding consolation of these glorious words from the lips of our Lord.

In His precious name we pray, Amen.

This transcript was prepared by Shari Main.