Christian Life Series II BUILDING BLOCKS FOR YOUR BEST LIFE, cont'd.

God wants to build our lives to be the best they can possibly be.

KEY POINTS

- In regard to the spiritual house God is building—the Church of Jesus Christ, of which He Himself is the chief cornerstone (Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:6)—God prepares every child of His to take their place in the structure (1 Pet. 2:5).
- In Matthew 5, Jesus gives us great insight into the materials He uses to build us into the kind of people we need to be—people who can fit seamlessly into His massive, global, multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural building; otherwise called "the body of Christ."
- Of the seven crucial elements, we have previously covered:
 - Humility: "A modest or low view of one's importance" (5:3);
 - **Meekness:** "Quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on; submissive" (5:5);
 - A strong desire for righteousness (5:6) and
 - **Mercifulness:** "Compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm" (5:7).
- We will now look in more detail at the remainder of these vital elements.
- Purity of heart (5:8).
- "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith" (I Timothy 1:5).
- Certainly, it comes as no surprise that we see various components of the building materials recorded in Matthew 5 showing up in other biblical writings (see Psalm 24:3-5; 1 Tim. 2:22). From David to Solomon and from Jesus to Paul, the message is the same: let all our words and deeds be motivated and anchored in our purity of heart.
- Peacemaking: "Bringing about peace, especially by reconciling adversaries" (5:9).
- God and man were at odds with each other because of sin. Humans opposed each other for a variety of reasons, causing conflicts to abound on every hand.
- Jesus came to bring peace between God and humanity, and He calls us to join in His divine work as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20), representing the kingdom of light in this world of darkness.
- And, certainly, we need to model this in our relationships with one another. "Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Cor. 13:11. See also Mark 9:50; John 16:33; Romans 14:19.)

KEY SCRIPTURE: Matthew 5:3-16

- Good works: "Charitable acts" (5:16). These unselfish acts are done out of a heart of love, in the best interests of another.
- We are well aware that good works do not earn or guarantee our salvation, as many people believe.
- in and of ourselves, there are no good works we can do that will impress God. He *does*, however, require good works of us! (See Matt. 5:16; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:8.)

L.G

ice-Breaker:

What are

some of the things that you do

to help yourself decompress after a stressful day/week?

- "Good works" form an essential building block in a Christian's life when they are done for the reason God intended: to bring glory to Himself. Our good works are undeniable indicators of His reality and the fact that He is the one working through us!
- The Lord has given us seven incredibly powerful building blocks for our lives that will enable us to fit perfectly into His masterful building project.
- As He is the master builder, let us give Him our full cooperation as He molds us, makes us and shapes us after His divine will and purpose.
- We may be different in many ways. We may be called to fill differing roles and responsibilities. But, essentially, the Lord is building the same things into all of us...if we will allow Him.
- So let us allow God to build for us the best life we could possibly have.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

- Of the seven building blocks listed in the lesson, which ones do you best exemplify in your life and which ones do you think you need to work on? Discuss as a group how a person can go about strengthening these crucial elements.
- 2) Is there a specific instance that stands out in your mind where you had to exercise humility, peacemaking, good works, etc.? If so, please share it with the group. What was the end result? If granted a do-over, would you have done anything differently?
- As a group, take the time to pray, with a focus on what is in the prayer box below.

Prayer Time

Lord, help me to build up and strengthen the essential building blocks I need in my life, so that I may be a more effective member of the Body of Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think	about)
(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must s	hare)
PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS	