

# Faith Talk

*Trinity Canadian Reformed Church*

*Worshipping Sundays 9 am and 3 pm, 2553 Binbrook Rd E*

## **Blessed are the Peacemakers.... (One of the beatitudes found in Matt. 5:9)**

By Ronn and Annie-Lynn VanAndel

Remembrance Day has just passed. Once again, we remembered the sacrifices of soldiers in a number of 20<sup>th</sup> century wars. Many memorials were moving affairs. Yet, war still confronts us each day when we open newspapers or turn on TVs and radios. Do we ever learn? Do we remember past wars and sacrifices simply as a tradition? Is peace just a vague hope?

We first need to know what true peace is. The Bible defines peace as knowing truth, and living in a right relationship with Jesus Christ. True peace is achievable only when we start with the knowledge of our own state of sin. Then we can go nowhere else but to Christ. He points the way to truth, life and .... Peace.

So why can't we achieve that elusive goal of peace faster, and more effectively? Can it even be done?

Achieving peace will be tough – as long as sin continues to be a part of our existence. Peace is going to be something we aim for, write and sing about, and march for. Yet, it's a difficult thing to see in practice. We preach peace, and then talk negatively about our neighbour. We hope for peace at the same time as we worry about our next "get rich quick" scheme.

Again, we need to be right with God! Our relationship with him is everything. Our love for our fellow man must be a direct consequence of the love we have received from God. Our desire for peace must be matched by a desire to live rightly.

For our God is one of peace. How do we know this? It says so in the Bible. In this book of truth, we read that God is not a God of confusion but of peace. There are many references to peace in his book. Eph 2:14 says "Christ is our peace."

When wars hit the news, or a suicide bombing extends the violence and civil war in a particular region, let us continue to pray for peace. Let's aim to build bridges of communication with people and so establish opportunities to seek peace. But let's also remember that true peace will only come when we are in a right relationship with God.

Go in peace, and live rightly with your God!

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