

# Welcome to the Family



David and Debbie Higgins

# Welcome to the Family



# Rick Stewart



# April: Missions Encouragement Month



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# Christian Practices That Bless the World



## A Different Response

**GREAT  
OAKS'**

**30**

**YEAR  
HOMECOMING**

AUGUST 14, 2022

**Blessed & Blessing**

# Genesis 12:2

<sup>2</sup> And I will make you a great nation,  
And I will bless you,  
And make your name great;  
And so you shall be a blessing;

*\*All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard*



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We are transformed in Christ,



# Colossians 3:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,

<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—



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We are transformed in Christ,  
and those new qualities  
bless the world.



# This Morning's Passage: Matthew 5:43-48





# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said,  
‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate  
your enemy.’

# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies  
and pray for those who persecute you,  
<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your  
Father who is in heaven; for He causes  
His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good,  
and sends rain on *the* righteous  
and *the* unrighteous.

# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

<sup>47</sup> If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing *than others*? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?



# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>48</sup> Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

# 1) The world's way creates a revenge cycle.



# Matthew 5:43

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said,  
‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate  
your enemy.’



# Leviticus 19:17-18

<sup>17</sup> ‘You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him.

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

2) God's way shows kindness even to those who practice evil.



# Matthew 5:44-45

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and pray for those who persecute you,  
<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your  
Father who is in heaven; for He causes  
His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good,  
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# Romans 5:8

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.



# 3) Our way is to follow God's example.



# Matthew 5:44-45

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# Matthew 5:46-47

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# Matthew 5:43-48

<sup>48</sup> Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



# What Christians Do Instead...



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- Verses that show us Christian responses:

# 1 Peter 2:21-23

<sup>21</sup> For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

# 1 Peter 2:21-23

<sup>22</sup> WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

<sup>23</sup> and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;



## Luke 6:27-28

<sup>27</sup> “But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

# Ephesians 4:32

<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;

# Romans 12:21

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.





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# Blessing the World:

# Matthew 5:44-45

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and pray for those who persecute you,  
<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your  
Father who is in heaven; for He causes  
His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good,  
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Blessing the World:  
lives are changed not through evil,  
but by God's goodness.

# What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear

- Learn about Christ (Rom. 10:17)

Believe

- Believe in Christ (John 8:24)

Repent

- Commit to Follow Christ (Acts 2:38)

Confess

- Confess your faith (Romans 10:9-10)

Be Baptized

- Baptism into Christ (Acts 2:38, Rom 6:3-4)



# James 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.