

“The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth”

By Tony Melton

Jesus declared, “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). Is Jesus saying that those who practice meekness (gentleness, mildness) will someday inherit a plot of ground here on this earth? Some folks teach that God will one day renew this earth and the meek will be given a portion of it.

It seems to me, however, that Jesus is talking about something a person may possess at this present time. Jesus is not saying that the meek will receive an abundance of earthly possessions. In another passage, He plainly pointed out that a man’s life “does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15). Jesus was speaking of a spiritual inheritance, an inheritance that only meek Christians can realize.

“The meek shall inherit the earth” means that they will receive the fullest and most meaningful life while living here. For example, the meek will enjoy a clean conscience and a close relationship with God. The Lord will guide and comfort them through trials and tribulations. They will enjoy true friendship with the best and most honorable people on earth- God’s family. They do not become stressed or anxious over gaining or losing worldly possessions, for they trust that God will provide. They enjoy peace in the hour of death, because they have God’s promise of eternal life.

The meek will inherit all of the valuable and lasting treasures this earth has to offer. In other words, numerous spiritual blessings will only be enjoyed by the meek; they will inherit the most meaningful benefits from their earthly life. Leo Boles wrote, “Selfish people may possess the earth, but it is the meek alone who inherit the real blessings of this earth and of the spiritual kingdom.”