

## INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE

-Ryan Parsons-

As Saul (later known as the Apostle Paul) was being confronted, converted, and commissioned by the Lord, a man named Ananias was called to go and minister to him. Considering Saul's reputation, Ananias was justifiably hesitant. At this point, the Lord reassured and said to him: "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15).

Saul's purpose was to be an instrument that transmitted the beautiful Gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15) to those who had not yet heard its glorious tune.

Was it just a job for Paul? Later in his ministry, he reflects on the question: How will anyone respond to the beautiful Gospel if they never hear its song?

Romans 10

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Could this be part of what Jesus was trying to communicate to his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount?

Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

If that did not seal the deal, perhaps the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) solidifies that all disciples are called to be instruments for the Lord.

There is a beautiful song Christians sometimes sing with a chorus that says:

*Lord, Make us instruments of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let your love increase  
Lord, make us instruments of your peace,  
Walls of pride and prejudice shall cease  
When we are your instruments of peace.*

Is that our song too? It should be! May God bless us as we obey the call and transmit the beautiful melody of the Gospel of peace to the world. Be an instrument of peace!

Hesed,  
Ryan