

Peace On Earth

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! What an amazing season where we celebrate the birth of a Baby who came to this world to offer salvation to all!

This was an event that was so big, we take two days to recognize it! This miracle was spoken of for thousands of years before it happened and we still speak of it more than two thousand years after it happened!

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV)

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

These words by the prophet Isaiah, about the Messiah that was to come, were spoken 700 years before this miraculous birth. Surely they stirred excitement within the people as these things were told of their coming Savior!

This Child would hold a name that would be so great, that it's meaning alone couldn't fully describe the depths of this name.

If you've ever watched a MMA or boxing match, you know how they announce the fighters...they can't just say. (Fighting out of Dublin Ireland, the Former UFC welterweight champion, the Former UFC lightweight champion, The Pride of Ireland, the One, the Only, the Notorious, Conor McGregor)

They do this not only to hype the crowd and fighters, they are trying to draw you in to see beyond just the name, but to see a little more into the depths of who the fighter is...some of his history... his accomplishments...his reputation...

Isaiah shows us that Jesus is more than just salvation!

Jesus is Wonderful Counselor. His Word is true and perfect and beyond human wisdom. We marvel and wonder at Him and His guidance. It may not even make sense to us at times because He is so beyond what our minds can understand.

Jesus is Mighty God. He is the One True God. The only way to salvation. He is the mightiest, the strongest, He is the Champion of every battle, the Hero of every story!

Jesus is Everlasting Father. He always has been and always will be. He loves us with a fatherly love as He leads us and protects us, and He always will!

Jesus is Prince of Peace.

Think about that for a moment. Jesus is Prince of Peace. How badly, in a year of chaos, does our world need peace?

Now you probably have some ideas of what you think that should look like. No more war, no more violence, no more hate. That sounds pretty good to me! This is probably something along the lines of what people thought would happen when Jesus was born.

It was part of the “disappointment” when Jesus came on the scene and didn’t look like an earthly king ready to rule over His enemies.

How can Jesus be Prince of Peace, yet He came and all is not peaceful?

Look at what the angels told the shepherds when they announced the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:10-14 (NKJV)

Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Jesus is Prince of Peace.

Have you ever wondered why “prince”? Isn’t He the King of kings? Yet somehow Prince of Peace?

A Prince is a ruler of a principality..... so a ruler of a specific defined area, as opposed to a king who rules the entire kingdom.

Jesus is the ruler of peace. This specific defined area is completely under His rule. He is the leader of peace, the overseer of peace. This is because Jesus IS peace!

One guy says, "My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far today, I have finished 2 bags of chips and a chocolate cake. I feel better already."

Is that the best we can do? Eat ourselves to peace??? Doesn't work...I've tried it!

It's not possible to have peace without having Jesus.

John 16:33 (NKJV)

These things I have spoken to you, that **in Me** you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

It's in Jesus that we can have peace. The world WILL produce war, violence, and hate! Jesus produces peace.

Jesus did come to bring peace. The issue we have is that Jesus didn't meet OUR expectation of peace! Everyone wants world peace. Every contestant in every pageant wants world peace right?

There was a study of the last 3,500+ years of recorded history that showed it contained only 286 years of peace, that's less than 8%. What's worse is that during that period over 8,000 peace treaties have been signed and broken.

Jesus has come. World peace has not!

Luke 12:51 (NKJV)

Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.

The purpose of Jesus' miracle birth was not to bring world peace. His mission was never to simply get people all in agreement and on the same page. They did that once at the tower of babel and God separated them and scattered them.

Jesus did not come for peace on earth but actually to divide. In Matthew He says He didn't come to bring peace but a sword! Then goes on to say how even family members will come against each other and their enemies will be of their own household.

Why? Because the division Jesus makes is between believers and unbelievers. He came to win people over from darkness into light....If you choose Him you must follow Him, your life has to change....and that will cause you some division on earth.

Maybe this makes you question the whole Prince of Peace thing.... Who wants division even in their own family?

Maybe we are not looking at peace biblically.....

Peace in the Hebrew is shalom - you may have heard this word before.....there is an aspect of the peace from war, violence, and hate but they result from it's truer meaning of completeness and soundness.

Jesus is Prince of Peace. He is the ruler of completeness and soundness.

Complete - Having all parts, lacking nothing, whole, full

Colossians 2:9-10 (NKJV)

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Jesus is Prince of Peace so that you can be made complete in Him. In Him you can have all the parts. In Him you lack nothing. In Him you are whole and full!

This peace isn't world peace, it's personal peace.

We want God to just change everything instantly. Just make everyone get along and life will be great.....no.....life will still be EMPTY!

We don't have world peace because people don't have freedom from sin. Jesus came, born of a virgin, died on a tree, and was raised to life so that YOU could have peace. Just you. And you. And you. And you.

It has to be received person by person. Without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we would all still be enemies of God.....therefore no matter how long we all get along with each other....there still would be no peace. We would still be lacking something, we still wouldn't be whole and full.

Because we would still be separated from our Creator. But Jesus.....by His shed blood, He paid the price for our sin offering reconciliation with God. We who were once far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

THIS is peace. Knowing God. A restored relationship with your Maker. Friendship with your Savior.

THIS is where you are made whole. All of the searching and grasping for things that fill that void....they are all temporary. But Jesus is eternal.

Peace is faith in Jesus, trusting in Him....

Romans 5:1-4 (NKJV)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

That unlocks the other part of peace, once you have the completeness, you can have the soundness.

Sound - healthy and untroubled

Who wants a healthy soul? Who wants an untroubled soul?

When we take our rightful place in Christ through faith in Him, we are made whole and when we are made whole we can be healthy and untroubled in our mind, will, and emotions.

All of the things causing this trouble in our soul is subject to Jesus. He is greater than it all and in Him they can't harm us or trouble us....

Delva Krost - if you ask her how she is, she always has the same response "I'm peaceful". And I believe her! Not just from the words she speaks but I can feel it coming from much deeper. She has a peaceful spirit, the Holy Spirit, that radiates from her when you speak with her.

How do we get to that place?

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

It doesn't make sense how a person can be peaceful with all the junk we have to deal with in this life. But if you trust in Jesus, if you can REALLY give it all over to Him and trust in Him, Who is Lord over all.....then you can have peace.

Peace that makes you complete and sound. That is the kind of peace that surpasses all understanding. That is the kind of peace that guards your heart and mind through Christ.

If you want peace on earth, YOU trust Jesus, because His peace comes personally to one person at a time. There is no peace in the world except in the hearts of those who have received the Prince of Peace.

This is the only way for world peace, that is until Jesus returns!

The same Jesus that was born in a manger, arose from the dead proving His victory over sin and death. Today He sits on His heavenly throne in victory as His Spirit dwells in His people bringing peace on earth one person at a time.

But there will be that day when Jesus returns for His bride, the church, and He will place all of His enemies under His feet bringing an end to sinful rule. And bringing heaven to earth, in perfect peace as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Peace on earth is the peace of Christ in the sons and daughters of God!

This morning you have a decision to make....live in peace or live in distress.

Peace with God

Peace with Yourself

Peace with Others

John 14:27 (NKJV) - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.