

Peace

Introduction:

- A. [**Peace is a common word**]
 - B. [***“Peace is the brief glorious moment in history when everybody stands around reloading.”***]
 - C. Where do we turn for peace at Christmas...
 - D. Isaiah 9:6
 - E. *As Christians we must remember why we celebrate the Peace Child at Christmas time.*
 - F. “Why is this Baby called the Prince of Peace?”
 - G. 4 Reasons: {**Be ready to flip**}
- I. Jesus brings us peace with God. (**Rom. 5:1-11**)
- a. The peace of being justified. (1)
 - i. “Justified”
 - 1. It is a legal term
 - 2. It means to be declared righteous.
 - ii. At the point of salvation we are once for all at peace with God.
 - 1. Before salvation we are at war with Him
 - 2. Our sinful rebellion made us enemies of God
 - iii. However, through Jesus’ sacrifice we are saved from wrath (9)
 - 1. Because Jesus took our place on the cross...
 - 2. God sees Christ’s righteousness & credits it to our account...
 - 3. Thus we are “declared righteous”!
 - b. The peace of experiencing God’s love. (5)
 - i. Now that we have peace with God, His love is overflowing in our hearts.
 - 1. God’s love brings us hope...
 - 2. It is the implanted evidence that we belong to God!

- ii. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a testimony of God’s love.
 - iii. Ultimately God has shown us His love through the sacrifice of Jesus. (8)
 - 1. *“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* – 1 Jn. 4:10
 - 2. What peace there is in knowing a loving God!
- c. The peace of being reconciled. (10-11)
- i. “Reconciled”
 - 1. Lit. – “to change or exchange”
 - 2. Idea – “to restore to favor with”
 - ii. To be reconciled to God means that we have been changed from a relationship of hostility with God, to a relationship of peace.
 - iii. This is all done through the actions of Christ.
 - 1. Christ fully paid what was due to God because of our sin...
 - 2. And thus we are given a place of friendship & peace with God!
 - 3. [**The greatest reconciliation**]
- “The second reason this is the Peace Child...”

- II. Jesus brings us real peace in life. (**Jn. 14:23-27**)
- a. The peace of having a relationship with God. (23)
 - i. Because we love the Lord it will be evident in our lives.
 - 1. We will strive & want to keep His word.
 - 2. [**The difference between “like” & “love”**]
 - ii. God has made His home in us!
 - 1. KJV – “abode”

- 2. Because of the presence of the Holy Spirit in us, we have access to the Father and Jesus at any time!
- iii. What peace there is in knowing that the Lord is always near!
- b. The peace of being guided by the Holy Spirit. (26)
 - i. The Holy Spirit makes Himself evident in our lives.
 - 1. He indwells us on Christ's behalf
 - 2. He our ultimate source of counsel and help.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit uses the Word to guide us in everyday life.
 - 1. For the disciples the H.S. would aid their ministry & inspire the N.T.
 - 2. For us, as we consume the Bible, the H.S. reminds us of its applications in our lives.
 - iii. What peace there is in knowing that God is constantly there ready to give us direction!
- c. The peace like no other. (27)
 - i. Jesus gives us a peace despite our troubles!
 - 1. It is a peace the supplies strength and comfort from the burdens we face.
 - 2. It is a peace that gives the Christian endurance.
 - ii. The Lord's peace is not like that of the world.
 - 1. The world sees peace as the process of fleeing form conflict, pain, or death...
 - 2. But we have a peace that comes from a dependence on the Lord.
 - 3. *"and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* – Phil. 4:7

- iii. What an amazing peace there is in following the Lord Jesus Christ!

“The third reason this is the Peace Child...”

- III. Jesus brings us peace with other Christians. (**Eph. 2:11-22**)
 - a. The peace that crosses boundaries. (13-15)
 - i. Jesus through His death forever destroyed the boundary between Jews & Gentiles
 - 1. They seemed quite different:
 - 2. The gentiles were considered “far off” compared to the Jews...
 - 3. But in Christ has brought the two to unity...
 - ii. While physically we may different, in Christ we are all the same.
 - 1. If we are saved the “wall of separation” has been torn down.
 - 2. *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”* – Gal. 3:28
 - 3. **[No matter what difference they are my brother]**
 - iii. We can have peace with others when we see them the way Jesus does.
- b. The peace of a common salvation.(16-18)
 - i. The Jew & the Gentile were both saved in the same fashion – faith in Jesus Christ.
 - ii. We all are saved that same way.
 - 1. We are all reconciled to God by Christ act on the cross...
 - 2. We all have to respond the same gospel message...
 - 3. We all possess the same Holy Spirit.

iii. We can find peace with other Christians when we stop and examine our common bond in salvation.

1. **[We are all equally important to Christ]**
2. We can find peace with Christians who are different from us!

c. The peace of fellowship in the household of God. (19)

- i. God's kingdom is made up of all different kinds of people who have trusted in the Lord.
 1. There are no strangers...
 2. There are no foreigners...
 3. There are no lower class citizens...
- ii. For God has a very diverse family!
 1. All the redeemed are not only heavenly citizens, but are part of God's household
 2. The Father imparts the same infinite love to us as He does to Jesus!

iii. We can find peace with other Christians we see them all as children of God!

“The final reason this is the Peace Child...”

IV. Jesus will bring peace in His Millennial reign. (**Is. 11:1-9**)

a. This peace will come from the perfect King. (1-2)

- i. Jesus is the Rod & the Branch that is prophesied
 1. The Davidic line seemed broken with the Babylonian captivity...
 2. “Jesse” – father of David
 3. However, the family line remained & Jesus is a direct descendant
 - a. Thus His is the Messianic King
 - b. His rule is like new growth.

ii. Jesus has the qualifications to be the perfect king of peace

1. The Spirit will rest upon Him

2. He will be able to rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, & with fear of the Lord

iii. He will bring peace as King, because Jesus is the Prince of Peace

b. This peace will come under His just sovereignty. (3-5)

- i. He will not rule with a limited capacity of today's kings, but with full fear & knowledge of the Lord.
- ii. He will rule with righteous might.
 1. His actions will be done with righteousness, no matter who He faces
 2. He will bring a forced peace by striking down His enemies.
 3. **Rev. 19:11-21**

iii. There will be peace because King Jesus will make it happen.

c. This peace will be magnificent. (6-9)

- i. Under Jesus' control peace will prevail in the entire earth.
- ii. Hostility will be removed between man and beast
 1. Animals will be at peace with each other...
 2. Men will have no fear of predators...
 3. All mankind will be full of the knowledge of the Lord.
 - a. No one will doubt...
 - b. All will know that Jesus is real & that He is King

iii. What an amazing future still lies ahead for the Baby who is called the Prince of Peace!!!

Conclusion

- A. Are you embracing the peace of the Christ Child?
- B. Have you experience true peace with God?