



CELEBRATING
Advent

ISAIAH 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

THE MEANING OF PEACE

- In English, the word "peace" conjures up a passive picture, one showing an absence from hostilities, or a personality free from internal and external strife.
- The **biblical concept of peace** is larger than that and rests heavily on the Hebrew root *slm*, which means "**to be complete**" or "**to be sound.**"
- What is the opposite of peace?
 - Dictionary antonyms were; anxiety, distress, agitation, war, worry, unrest
 - I suggest its **root is fear**

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

WHAT IS YOUR NICKNAME?

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CHRISTMAS?

ISAIAH 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Jesus, this Prince of Peace rules now, in His kingdom and we are His kingdom and the sons that inhabit it presently.
- As we ponder some points of peace, please let this idea resonate in you and stir your mind as we will revisit this soon.

1. His kingdom, although more specifically one of eternity, can and still does influence the here and now.

Jesus's conversation with Pilate

A. **John 14:27** - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

B. **Isaiah 26:3** - You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

The greeting "grace and peace" is used in 18 of last 22 books of the Bible.

2. We are promised distress, persecutions and troubles in this life. *This is not a contradiction to Him as our Prince of Peace. They are parallel and not conflicting ideas.*

Matthew 10:34 - *"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.*

- A. **Romans 12:18** - If at all possible...be at peace with all men
- B. **1 Thessalonians 4:11** - Working with your hands, minding your own business, leading a quiet life.
- C. **Matthew 23:12** - Never leave, **Hebrews 13:5** - be content

3. *We have dual responsibilities in this quest for peace.*

A. The first is one of faith filled rest in believing the Scriptures that...

No one comes to me without being drawn (John 14:6)

The work of Salvation is based on the will of God not man's desire or intentions (John 1:13)

Fear lest not faithful in resting (Hebrews 4:1)

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross (Colossians 2:14)

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. The second is a place of works, born from faith.
James says He will show us his faith by his works.

1. Ask Seek Knock
2. Blind man who wouldn't take no
3. Women touching garment

Romans 8:6 - For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Is our mind set on "What a wonderful world (this is now)" or this current life is about Him, not me as my kingdom and all its rewards are coming later.

Colossians 3:15-17 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

HOW? BY.....

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

TAKE AWAYS

Are you a believer without peace?

Is it physical? Do you drink 6 Mt Dew's a day?

Is it mental? Is there too much on your plate?

Is it spiritual? Are you neglecting:

1. **Obedience** because of sin
2. **Jesus** - it is Jesus only, not Him and. He is our savior, the lamb worth our all
3. **His Word** - daily devotion to reading and renewing our mind
4. **Quiet meditation** - it is imperative as how else will we hear the Holy Spirit's directive
5. **Patience** - time is His; that is where faith comes to rule and bear in our lives

2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

May the Lord of peace Himself, give you peace always in every way.



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