

He Came to Give Us Peace

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James Heffington / General
Peace / Luke 2:8–14

Introduction

1. **Peace** — Freedom from disturbance, quiet, tranquility; The cessation of war or violence
2. But there is a better definition of the word in Scripture...**something only available to those who have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.**
3. **Scriptural peace** — “The tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”
4. **A young man was eager to grow in His Christian life. He got a piece of paper and made a list of all the things he would do for God. He wrote down the things he would give up, the places he would go to minister and the areas of ministry he would enter. He was excited. He took that list to the church and put it on the altar. He thought he would feel joy, but instead he felt empty. So he went home and started adding to his list. He wrote down more things**

he would do and wouldn't do. He took the longer list and put it on the altar, but still he felt nothing. He went to a wise, old pastor, told him the situation and asked for help. The pastor said, "Take a blank sheet of paper. Sign your name at the bottom. Put that on the altar." The young man did, and then peace came to his heart.

5. **The only way to scriptural peace is surrender to Christ.** As long as you look for such peace in anything other than Jesus you will never find it.

6. If you look for it in the things you do, even the things you do for Him you won't find it. If you look for it in the things you don't do (morality) you will still never find it. **Real peace comes in the surrender of one's life to Jesus.**

There is nothing like "real peace."

7. Real peace is something deep in the soul. It reaches the very deepest part of who we are. It touches every part of our existence; it is a feeling, something to be understood, grasped and enjoyed.

8. It is a quiet state of being in which we find contentment based, not upon our circumstances, but upon the assurance we have in the promises of God through Christ Jesus.

9. **Christians have this peace because of the hope we have in Jesus; the expectation of the good things He has done for us as well as those He has promised to do for us.**

10. **More specifically, Jesus gives us forgiveness of sins and right relationship with God. He gives us eternal life and a reservation with Him in heaven. And He gives us His presence and strength for the time we live here on earth.**

11. Because of our hope in Jesus we have peace regardless the circumstances we find in our life here on earth.

12. **The expectations that we celebrate at Advent are really building blocks of a blessed and happy life. The first block is hope and it in turn gives us peace which manifests joy that leads to love.**

13. **We have no peace without the hope which Christ gives us on the Cross and that Cross never has opportunity to happen without His birth.**

14. John 1:14

John 1:14 NASB95

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Peace

1. God's peace came to earth in the person of Jesus. The "Word became flesh." **Why would God do it?** Why would God leave heaven and come to earth in the person of Jesus?

2. **The Answer — His birth was a product of His grace.**

3. **Grace** — God's unmerited favor.

4. **Favor** — Will, choice, delight, pleasure, satisfaction

5. God made a choice to delight in us; to take pleasure in us...not because of anything He found in us. But because **He found in His perfect character the capacity to love the unloveable. He found within His perfect character the mercy to love and save us.**

6. Romans 5:8

Romans 5:8 NASB95

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

7. His death (the cross) is the greatest demonstration of God's love for us but it is not the first demonstration of such in the life of Jesus. **The first demonstration of God's love in the life of Jesus happened in the event recorded in our passage today. His birth.**

8. One might even take it a step further...God's first demonstration of His love toward us happened the moment He chose to save us and stepped out of heaven to do so.

9. Philippians 2:5-8

Philippians 2:5-8 NASB95

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

10. Jesus humbled Himself, stepped out of the glory of heaven to be born a man in the Judean town of Bethlehem. We cannot comprehend what He gave up in order to come here.

11. And He did this before we were born, before we had the chance to do anything to “make Him like us,” before we had the slightest opportunity to do anything which would place Him in our debt. There was no reason for Him to leave heaven save one...His love.

12. God loves us. He loves us with an infinite capacity...with a complete perfection...and perhaps most bewildering of all... unconditionally.

13. At your dirtiest, filthiest, most vile moment God loves you just the same as at He does in your cleanest most perfect one. He does not like what you are doing and who you are but He loves you! There is nothing in you which warrants or demands God’s attention much less His love! You cannot be good enough in order to earn it nor can you be bad enough to lose it. God has simply chosen, in spite of us, to extend it.

14. In this wonderful, incomprehensible love God has chosen mercy by extended His favor; saving us from our hopelessness, our sin, our destiny in hell apart from Him. **The evidence of this choice is the**

manger.

15. This great demonstration of love and grace gives us hope and peace...“The tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”

16. We are assured that we are saved from sin, hell and separation from God. And we can be assured of His continued presence with us here in our time on earth as well.

17. Matthew 28:20

Matthew 28:20 **ESV**

teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

18. The presence of Jesus in the manger assures us of His presence. He was present in the manger and He is present with us right now today. Jesus has come, is with us now and will one day come again. Our hope and our peace are found in Him.

Conclusion

1. A television interviewer was walking streets of Tokyo at Christmas time. Much as in America, Christmas shopping is a big commercial success in Japan. The interviewer stopped one young woman on the sidewalk, and asked, "What is the meaning of Christmas?" Laughing, she responded, "I don't know. Is that the day that Jesus died?" There was some truth

in her answer.

2. A little boy and girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." "No," his sister corrected, "not beans, peas."

3. There are so many misunderstandings about Christmas. For so many it is about gifts, food, candy canes and Christmas trees. All of these are fun parts of the season.

4. But Christmas is about so much more than any of these. It is about the Christ being born in a manger; bringing with Him hope, peace, joy and love.

5. This morning we celebrate the peace we have in Christ...Do you have peace in Jesus?

6. Steps to Peace in Jesus:

a. Receive Jesus as your Savior

b. Live a life of faith in God

c. Surrender your life (take up your cross) daily to Him