

Theme: Christ is the Prince of Peace, who brings full peace - the blessed life that flows from the righteousness of God.

I. Intro – The Quest for Peace

- A. Since the 60's we have been on a quest for peace
- B. The ubiquitous peace symbol
- C. Anti-war protests and movements for communal peace
- D. The rise in therapy for internal personal peace
- E. What is real peace? Where is it found?

II. Understanding Peace

- A. Peace - communally - absence of war & strife
 - 1. Certainly part of peace
 - 2. Isaiah 9:6-7 - Prince of peace; government & peace
 - 3. Isaiah 9:5 - bloody relics of war destroyed
 - 4. Ecclesiastes 3:8 - time for war & peace
 - 5. 1 Kings 4:24-25 - no strife without or within
 - 6. Note Solomon's name related to Shalom - peace
- B. Peace - individually - internal peace; well being
 - 1. Certainly part of peace as well
 - 2. Judges 6:23 - peace - no fear
 - 3. John 14:27 - peace; not fearful, troubled hearts
 - 4. Jer 29:11 - personal prosperity/well being

III. A Fuller Understanding of Peace

- A. Peace is intimately linked to righteousness
 - 1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - Peace, justice, righteousness
 - 2. Isaiah 32:17 - fruit of righteousness is peace
 - 3. Isaiah 48:18 - peace like a river, righteousness
 - 4. Isaiah 48:22 - No peace for the wicked
 - 5. Isaiah 57:20-21 - No rest or peace for the wicked
 - 6. Isaiah 60:17 - peace & righteousness rulers
- B. False prophets offer peace apart from righteousness
 - 1. Jeremiah 6:14 - treat wound of sin lightly
 - 2. No peace for the wicked!
 - 3. Repeated verbatim in Jeremiah 8:11

IV. Jesus - Our Prince of Peace

- A. Jesus brings peace to us
 - 1. Isaiah 9:6-7 - Peace, justice, righteousness
 - 2. Isa 9:6-7 - God focus - given; titles; zeal of LORD
 - 3. This must be the work of God - not man
- B. Jesus Himself is our peace
 - 1. Judges 6:24 - Yahweh is Peace - He IS SHALOM
 - 2. Micah 5:2-5 - Messiah coming; He is their peace
 - 3. Ephesians 2:14 - He Himself is our peace

4. Peace with God - Rom 5:1-2; Isa 53:5 - justification
5. Peace internally - John 14:27
6. Fills our mouth with Gospel of peace - Isaiah 52:7

Unwrapping Peace in Christ

Isaiah 9:6-7
December 4, 2011
Communion
2 Thessalonians 3:16

V. Applying the Word - Celebrating the Advent of Peace

- A. Do we see that true peace has come in Christ?
 1. Do we see that true peace requires righteousness?
 2. Have we bought quick peace gimmicks of false prophets?
 3. Christ has worked righteousness for us before God
 4. He Himself is the peace of God - and offered to us!
 5. Look to Him - and have peace!
- B. Are we free to offer peace to others?
 1. We have Christ's righteousness and peace
 2. This gives true freedom to proclaim and work peace
 3. Do we proclaim the peace of Christ to others?
 4. Do we work to be peace-makers?
 5. We can work for peace - and trust God!
 6. This week - meditate on Christ Our Peace
 7. This week - pray for someone where there is no peace
- C. Communion - Our Meal of Peace - Jer

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6–7

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. Isaiah 9:5

[There is] a time to love and a time to hate, **a time for war and a time for peace.** Ecclesiastes 3:8

For he ruled over all the kingdoms west of the River, from Tiphseh to Gaza, **and had peace on all sides.** 25 During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, **lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.** 1 Ki 4:24–25

But the LORD said to him, "**Peace! Do not be afraid.** You are not going to die." Judges 6:23

Peace I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.** John 14:27

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11 (Note: prosper is 'shalom' - peace - in Hebrew.)

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. Isaiah 32:17

If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea. Isaiah 48:18

"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked." Isaiah 48:22

But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. 21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." Isaiah 57:20–21

Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. **I will make peace your governor and righteousness your ruler.** Isaiah 60:17

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace. Jeremiah 6:14 (Repeated verbatim in Jer. 8:11)

Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it **The LORD is Peace.** Judg 6:24

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ... 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 **And he will be their peace.** Micah 5:2–5

For he himself is our peace... Ephesians 2:14

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,** 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1–2

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; **the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,** and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Peace I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of **those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation,** who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6–7