

CHRISTMAS PEACE: THREE TYPES OF BIBLICAL PEACE CHRISTMAS SERIES

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TEXT: Luke 2:8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; **11** for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, **14** “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

INTRO: We are all going through a dark, anxious, and fearful time in our world today. There is desperate need and hunger for peace and joy. People are more depressed than ever before. Suicide is the number-one killer among people [under the age of 35](#). It has been the number-two killer among teenagers, but today, it is now the number-two killer for adults under the age of 55 (number one is heart disease). The number-one choice of death is overdosing on fentanyl. People want to numb their pain, loneliness, and depression.

But on the first Christmas night, the angels proclaimed that peace had finally come to earth because God was pleased with men. What does this mean? What kind of peace are we talking about? The Jewish people were expecting that when their Messiah came, He would bring peace. It is called Messianic Peace. That peace would bring all wars and conflicts to an end on earth. Dennis Prager, who is a conservative Jew, deeply loves Christians and loves the Christmas season. However, he says he does not believe that Jesus is the Messiah because if He was, the world would have had peace for the past 2,000 years. Is this what the angels were announcing?

The Bible talks about three types of peace that we are going to unpack today: 1) Peace With Others, 2) The Peace *Of* God, 3) Peace *With* God.

I. PEACE WITH OTHERS



A. JESUS TAUGHT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER

1. **Matthew 5:9** “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

B. PEACE WITH OUR ENEMIES

1. He taught how to have peace with our enemies, with people who don't like us.
2. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

C. THE APOSTLE PAUL TAUGHT PEACE

1. **Romans 12:9** *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.* — Paul begins by giving an important truth of God's love. Love doesn't rejoice over evil but rejoices with the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). Then Paul talks about love among believers in verse 10.
2. **Romans 12:10** *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.* Lastly, he talks about loving those who hate us.
3. **Romans 12:14** *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse...*
4. **Romans 12:17** *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.*
5. **Romans 12:18** *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.*
6. **Romans 12:21** *Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good.*

D. JESUS AND PAUL TAUGHT THAT FORGIVING OTHERS IS THE KEY TO PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

1. In the Disciples' Prayer, Jesus taught us to pray in **Matthew 6:12**, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil.’ 14 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”
2. Paul said, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one

another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

E. THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT AT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST, THERE WILL BE PEACE ON EARTH, NO MORE CONFLICTS AND NO MORE WARS

1. **Isaiah 2:4 And He will judge between the nations and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.**
2. What the Jewish people still don't understand, including the disciples after the resurrection, is that there will be two comings of Jesus, the Messiah. The first coming was when He would establish a spiritual peace in our hearts, and the second coming is when He will establish a permanent physical peace on earth.
3. There will be no world peace on this side of eternity. **Jeremiah 6:14 “Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.” (NIV)**
4. There will be no physical peace until Jesus returns and creates a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1).
5. Because we are all sinners, we will always have conflict until we give our lives to Jesus or when He returns and creates a new world.
6. **Jesus said that there will be wars and rumors of war until He comes back (Matthew 24:6). Matthew 24:7 “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...”**
7. **Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

II. THE PEACE OF GOD

- A. **Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”**

B. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

C. The world is looking for inner peace. Drugs or alcohol is to deaden the pain and trauma of life. That is why I did drugs. I was in pain. I thought money, popularity, and sex could satisfy me. I then went into Eastern religion for a year.

D. THE PEACE OF GOD IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICT, TROUBLE, OR TRIALS

1. John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

2. There was a foundation that gave a \$100,000 prize to the artist who could paint peace. The one who won painted a tempest storm, but on the edge of a cliff was an eagle’s nest with the mother eagle covering her eaglets with her wings.

E. INNER PEACE RESULTS ARE HEALTH, PROSPERITY, RECONCILIATION WITH GOD AND OTHERS, AND INNER WELL-BEING OR SERENITY

1. Peace in the classical, secular sense meant the absence of war and conflict. The Romans had *Pax Romana*, Roman peace, during Caesar Augustus’ period where there was law and order and no war, thus bringing peace and prosperity to the citizens of Rome. But this is a temporary and counterfeit peace compared to the peace that God has for every person.

2. Inwardly, within the soul. The Hebrew word is *shalom*, meaning primarily “soundness,” “health,” but coming also to signify “prosperity,” well-being in general, all good in relation to both man and God.

3. The apostle John gives a description of shalom in **3 John 2** **Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.**

4. **Prosperity.** In the Old Testament, peace also meant prosperity. **Psalm 35:27** **Let them shout for joy and rejoice... And let them say continually, “The LORD be magnified, who delights in the prosperity (*shalom*) of His servant.”** (See Psalm 73:3)

5. **Health.** One of many examples is when Jacob asks how his uncle Laban is doing in **Genesis 29:6**, **“Is it well (*shalom*) with him?”** (“Is there *peace* to him?”)

6. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. “Shalom was the common friendly greeting, used in asking after the health of anyone.” (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, p. 732)

F. THE PEACE OF GOD COMES THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Understand that peace is the fruit of the Spirit.**

2. Fruit has to grow and develop. As a kid, we had a green apple tree in our neighborhood. My friends and I would climb up the tree, pick a ripe apple, and eat it right off the tree. The key word is “ripe.” We had to wait until the fruit was ripe.

3. Peace, just like love and patience, can grow and develop in your life.

G. YOU GROW PEACE BY DOING THE BASIC SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

1. **WORD: Psalm 119:165** Those who love Your law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble. **166** I hope for Your *salvation*, O LORD, and do Your commandments. **167** My *soul* keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly.

2. **PRAYER**

3. **LOVE**

4. **COMMUNITY: Philippians 4:9** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

H. YOU HAVE TO FIGHT FOR THE PEACE OF GOD

1. **1 Peter 5:6** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, **7** casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. **8** Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

2. **Ephesians 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

3. **2 Corinthians 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, **4** for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. **5** We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the

knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

4. **Romans 16:20** The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet...
5. **Don't let Satan or anyone or anything rob you of your peace! Fight!**

III. PEACE *WITH* GOD

A. **Luke 2:14** “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

1. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace *with* God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. On the night that Jesus was born, the angels were announcing that we all can have peace with God, because in a little town of Bethlehem, Christ the Savior was born.
3. This is called the Gospel. God became man, He died for our sins, He rose again, and we too can have eternal life if we believe in Him.
4. The Gospel means “good news.” Why it is good news?

B. IF YOU HAVE NOT GIVEN YOUR LIFE TO JESUS, YOU DO NOT HAVE PEACE WITH GOD. IN FACT, YOU ARE AT WAR AGAINST GOD.

1. God said that while we were enemies of God, Christ died for us.
2. **Romans 5:10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
3. You may not be waving your fist at God, saying to Him, “I hate You!” But the Bible says the whole world is rebelling against God because all of us are sinners, and our sins are an affront to God.
4. You may be a churchgoer. But the Bible says that if you don't know God—if you have not personally accepted Him as your Lord and Savior—you are in rebellion against God.
5. **Jeremiah 17:9** “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”
6. All of us have violated the First Commandment: “you shall have no other gods before Me.” Your god can be money, sex, sports, a false ideology, and the bottom line is that you are your own god and not Jesus Christ. And if you have broken one commandment, you have broken them all.
7. **Romans 3:23** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

C. PEACE WITH GOD COMES WHEN YOU INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE AND ASK HIM TO RULE AND REIGN IN YOUR LIFE AS LORD.

1. JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE

2. Isaiah 9:6 For *a child* will be born to us, a son will be given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. And His name will be called *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

3. Isaiah 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government [or Kingdom] and of His peace. (His Government and peace are eternal.)

4. Hebrews 13:20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even Jesus our Lord...*

5. Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and rose again from the dead so that you can have peace with God.

6. WHEN YOU ACCEPT JESUS AS LORD IN YOUR LIFE, GOD'S SPIRIT COMES TO DWELL WITHIN YOU AND YOU HAVE GOD'S PEACE.

CONCLUSION: WHAT MUST YOU DO TO BE SAVED?

A. REPENT

B. BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS, ROSE AGAIN, AND WILL GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE

C. OBEY BY GIVING YOUR HEART TO JESUS