

“The Prince of Peace”
December 17, 2006 * Luke 2:8-15

I. *Because of Christmas God gets glory – and what do we get out of the deal?*

Peace. “Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.”

Where do we see peace’s absence in today’s world?

Across the globe. 31 nations are presently on the US State Departments “Do Not Travel” list.

Across the human heart. There is so much unrest and anxiety in our hearts.

What are the sources of stress in our lives?

You name it: work, family, money, sex, busyness, health...

II. *The Peace That God Would Give Us Is Not Dependant On:*

A. **Circumstances**

B. *Having good **health***

C. *How much **money** I have*

D. *Being able to **understand** everything*

E. **Safety**

F. *Whether I **live** or not*

III. *Priority One For Having Peace Is Making Sure Before Anything Else That I Have **Peace** With **God**.*

A. *Why do I need this before anything else?*

Because I was created to have a relationship of love and peace with the God who made me. If I forsake this relationship, I miss out on the very purpose for my life.

Without this, there’ll forever be a hole in my heart which I’ll try desperately to fill with other things.

B. *So how do I have peace with God?*

The Christmas story gives us the answer: “A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” To have peace with God, you need a Savior. You say, What do I need to be saved from? Again, the Christmas story gives us the answer: “You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

ROMANS 5:1 – “THEREFORE SINCE WE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED THROUGH FAITH WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”

IV. *So having settled the condition of my soul, how do I grow in my experience of peace?*

To have an increase of peace in my life, I must have an increase of Jesus’ government in my life.

4 Areas Where Jesus Wants To Reign & Help Me Grow:

A. *He wants me to grow in **righteousness**.*

1. *Why do I want to bother doing right things if I’m already forgiven?*

Sin is a poison, and wherever it is practiced, before I’m a Christian or after I’m a Christian, it will always bring sickness, and disease, misery and death. Nothing will suck out the experience of peace in my life faster than committing sin.

ISAIAH 57:20-21 – “BUT THE WICKED ARE LIKE THE TOSSING SEA, WHICH CANNOT REST, WHOSE WAVES CAST UP MIRE AND MUD. ‘THERE IS NO PEACE,’ SAYS MY GOD, ‘FOR THE WICKED.’”

B. *He wants to help me grow in **trust**.*

1. *What can I do to strengthen my trust?*

Trusting is a decision I make. There’s nothing mystical about it. But to help me make this decision, the Bible urges us to call on God in prayer to help my trust grow.

2. *Can I be honest with God about my struggles in prayer?*

Completely honest. Psalm 62:8 – “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him.”

C. *He wants me to grow as a **peacemaker**.*

1. *Is there a difference between being a peacemaker and a peace-keeper?*

***Peacekeeping* involves putting on masks, sweeping things under the rug, allowing things to simmer and fester, talking around others but not to them, saying with a smile, “Peace, peace” when there is no peace. *Peacemaking* involves doing the tough work of speaking the truth in love with someone, enforcing discipline, dying to self, practicing biblical reconciliation, giving and receiving forgiveness.**

D. *He wants me to grow in the practice of good spiritual **habits**. Such as:*

1. **Solitude**
2. **Simplicity**
3. **Slowness**

One thing I could work on to have more peace in my life:
