

Advent

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION.

This Advent at WBC...

- Hope
- Faith
- Joy
- Peace

What comes to mind
when you hear
the word *peace*?

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.”

Luke 2:13-14

- “And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, And on earth **peace** among men with whom He is pleased.’”

Peace

- OT: *shalom* – wholeness, completeness, fulfillment, harmony, perfection
 - “Implicit in *shalom* is the idea of unimpaired relationships with others and fulfillment in one’s undertakings.”
(*Theological Wordbook of the OT*)

Peace

- A characteristic of God
 - “the God of peace” (e.g. – Rom. 15:33; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9)
 - Gideon’s alter: “The LORD is Peace.” (Judg. 6:24)

Peace

- One of God's blessings to man
 - Numb. 6:24-26; Ps. 29:11; 2 Thess. 3:16
 - But it is *conditional*: Lev. 26:6; Prov. 16:7; Mic. 4:1-4; cf. Gal. 6:16
 - Follow the Manufacturer's instructions

GOD'S CHARACTER

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graph TD; A[GOD'S CHARACTER] --> B[GOD'S WAY(S)]; B --> C[GOD'S WISDOM]; B --> D[GOD'S WORD]; C --> E[GOD'S PEACE (& LIFE)]; D --> E;
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GOD'S *WAY(S)*

GOD'S *WISDOM*

GOD'S *WORD*

GOD'S PEACE (& LIFE)

Peace & Wisdom

- Prov. 3:1-4, 17
 - “And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52)
- Prov. 1:1-3 – *wisdom -> righteousness*

Peace & God's Word

- “Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.” (Ps. 119:165)
- Deut. 6:24-25 — law -> *righteousness*

Peace & Righteousness

- Living God's way -> peace
- *Righteousness* is conforming to God's standard (i.e. - living God's way)
- Righteousness -> peace (See Isa. 32:17)

Who is *actually* righteous?

The Argument of *Romans*

- **Chapter 2:** God judges all men fairly and equally according to His law
- **Chapter 3:** No one who breaks God's law is righteous, and we all break His law
 - All guilty! Nothing we can do about it
 - Yet there is another way

The Argument of *Romans*

- **Chapter 4**: Abraham was *declared righteous* because he believed God
 - We, too, can be *declared righteous* if we believe God
 - God gives us righteousness that does not come from the law

The Argument of *Romans*

- In 5:6-11, what words does Paul use to describe unbelievers?
 - *Helpless* (6), *sinners* (8), *enemies* (10)
- How does Paul characterize believers?
 - *Justified* (9), *saved from God's wrath* (9), *reconciled* (10)

Peace & Justification

- *Justified – acquitted; declared righteous*
- *Righteous – conforming to a standard*
- Jesus conformed to God's standard (i.e.- He was righteous)
- He offers us His righteousness, which we can receive by faith

Peace & Faith

- Receiving Jesus' righteousness by faith brings peace with God
 - “Therefore, having been justified [*declared righteous*] by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1)

Peace & Others

- 1 Pet. 3:8-12 (cf. Ps. 34:12-16)
- Rom. 12:18
- Rom. 14:13-19



PEACE

Peace & Christmas

- We can have peace with God!
 - Not something we can earn or achieve
 - Only because of what Jesus did
- Salvation is a gift that God offers to all
 - It is received by believing God (Rom. 10:9-10)

Peace & Christmas

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

(John 3:16)