

HE IS OUR PEACE

(Greenlane CF – 22/12/85 – EKB)

A. Readings: *Mat 1:18-25, Mat 2:1,2,9-15, Lk 2:4-20.*

1. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men and shepherds came and worshipped Him, angels from heaven came down praising God and saying, “**Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth for all those pleasing Him.**” *Lk 2:14 (Living Bible)*

(The “wise men” were wise because –

- a. They sought for Jesus the Messiah until they found Him.
 - b. When they found Him, they bowed at His feet and worshipped Him.
 - c. They gave to Him their most precious possessions, all they had.)
2. For many centuries Israel had been looking, and longing for their Messiah who would bring a lasting reign of peace. Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prophesied of the “anointed” one, or Messiah, in *1Sam 2:10*. Other prophets wrote of his ministry of peace that was to come.
David, in *Ps 72:4-7*, “abundance of peace”.
Isaiah, in *Is 9:6,7*, “Prince of peace”.
Jeremiah, in *Jer 33:15,16*, “salvation and security.”
Ezekiel, in *Ezk 34:23-25a*, “covenant of peace.”
Micah in *Mic 5:2-5a*, “this man shall be peace.”
 3. “**Peace**” – Hebrew – shalom means soundness, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, health, well-being. (See Strongs, Vines)
 4. No wonder Israel longed for their **Messiah, Prince of Shalom.**
 5. At Jesus’ birth there was in existence the “peace” established by the Romans, “Pax Romana”. The Roman armies conquered, controlled and established “peace”, but Israel was restless, looking for the Messiah, Jehovah Shalom – see Gideon. *Ju 6:12,14,16,23,24.*
 6. Today man strives for peace, but his striving is in vain. He creates vast international Organisations to achieve peace, such as, “United Nations Organisation”, “Peace Movements”, “Peace keeping forces”. However, **peace** can only be found in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Peace is an attribute and aspect of God’s character and can only be experienced by man when he is right relationship with God.**

The heart of fallen man is corrupt, sinful, selfish, self-centred and God says, “There is no peace to the wicked.” *Is 48:22*. Of mankind, God says, “There is none righteous, no not one.” *Rom 3:10*. “All we like sheep have gone astray, we have erred everyone to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” *Is 53:6*. The basic meaning of sin, wickedness, unrighteousness is that we have lived our lives with disregard for God. We have lived for self and ignored God. We have gone our own ways.

Peace is from God by Jesus Christ. Man finds **peace** when He finds Jesus Christ. “He is our **peace**”, *Eph 2:14*. “He is the Prince of **Peace**”, *Is 9:6*. He came and preached **peace**, *Eph 2:17*.

7. “The **God of Peace**” is a name for God in the New Testament passages: *Heb 13:20, Phil 4:9, 1Thes 5:23, Rom 15:33, Rom 16:20, 2Cor 13:11, 2Thes 3:16, 1Cor 14:33.*
8. He gives us His peace. *Jn 14:27, Jn 16:33, Gal 5:22, Is 55:12, 2Thes 3:16, Rom 15:13, Mk 4:39, Jn 20:19,21,26, Num 6:23-26, Rom 1:7, (and as a blessing in all the epistles).* We in turn pass on and minister His peace to others. *Lk 10:5,6, 1Cor 1:3, 2Cor 1:2, Gal 1:3, Eph 1:2.*
9. *Phil 4:6,7.* Now to “open up” these verses so that we might live in His peace, that “guards” (*NIV, NASB*) our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus.

Five steps to His peace.

- a. *v6* “**Be careful for nothing**” means do not be anxious about anything. Refuse anxiety, worry, fear, terror and anguish. Do not allow them room to work. Renounce, reject them. Great peace have they that love Thy law (Word). *Ps 119:165.*

Is 26:3 Thou wilt keep Him in perfect **peace** whose mind is stayed on Thee, i.e. on the promises He has given in His Word. “By grace are you saved through faith.” *Eph 2:8.*

Use these promises of God strongly, boldly, persistently, to break worry, fear, anxiety: *Ps 55:22, 1Pet 5:7, Mat 11:28,29, Ps 37:5, Josh 1:9, Is 41:10, Jn 6:20.* This is the sword of the Spirit, *Eph 6:17*, of the Gospel that brings **peace**. Pray these words of God’s Spirit, *2Tim 3:16*, use this sword, and smash worry, fear, upset. Receive His **peace**. Pray these to God. Use the weapons of warfare God has given you, that are mighty through God, *2Cor 10:3-5*, which are:

the **Name of the Lord Jesus Christ**, *Phil 2:9*

the **Blood of Jesus Christ**, *Rev 12:11, Eph 1:7, Col 1:14, Heb 13:12*

the **Promises of God’s Word**, *2Pet 1:3,4, Pro 4:20-22, Is 40:8*

the **Power of the Holy Spirit**, *Eph 6:10, Eph 3:16,20*

and “pull” down the strongholds of fear, anxiety, cast down reasonings, imaginations and every power that lifts itself up against the knowledge of God, *2Cor 10:3-5*. Pray the Word, and persist, with all confidence, boldness and strength, *Ps 27:2*

- b. *v6* “**But in everything by prayer**” means to go straight to God and “pour out” your heart before Him. “Prayer” means a pouring out. Cast every burden to Him, and look confidently to Him for the answer. He cares, loves, and is ready and able to meet the need. Stay there in His Presence.
- c. *v6* “**and supplication**” means **make specific request**, petition of God to meet the needs of the circumstances. :Ask and you will receive,because everyone that asks receives.” *Lk 11:9,10.* We must specifically ask God to act on our behalf. *Jn 16:23,24, Jam 4:2b, Phil 4:19, 1Jn 5:14,15, Mat 21:22.*
- d. *v6* “**with thanksgiving**”. Thanking God for His answer, His supply, expecting to receive His abundant grace, *2Cor 12:9, Rom 5:1, Phil 4:19.* David said “my **expectation is of the Lord**”, *Ps 62:5, Ps 27:13.* This is “**our confidence**”, *1Jn 5:14,15.*

He is “**the rewarder** of those who diligently seek Him,” *Heb 11:6.*

Jesus said, “what things so ever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them and you shall have them.” *Mk 11:24.* The provision is in the promise of God. Israel in the Old Testament had as their inheritance the **Promised Land**. In the New Testament spiritual Israel’s inheritance is the **Land of Promises**. *2Cor 1:20, 2Pet 1:4.*

- e. v7 **“the peace of God,** which passes (goes beyond) all understanding shall keep (guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”.
10. **The peace of God is strong inward confidence, assurance, reliance, quietness and rest, in God, in His Word, in His Spirit, in His Name, in His power. in His victory and Presence.** *Is 30:15.*

Is 32:17 – “the work or effect of righteousness, (a right standing with God) shall be **peace**, and the effect of righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever.”

Is 32:18 – “My people shall dwell in a **peaceable** habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” Hallelujah!

B. The peace of God in our lives has five aspects.

1. **Peace with God.** *Rom 5:1,9,10, Is 32:17,18, Eph 2:14,15,17.*

The first aspect of peace, is peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through faith in the Lord Jesus we come into right standing before God. We are justified, declared righteous before God through the merits of Jesus Christ by faith. We are pardoned and accepted by God, forgiven, washed, cleansed. Read *Rom 3:21* and following few chapters.

“We are all the **sons of God** by faith in Christ Jesus,” *Gal 3:26.*

We are now **“accepted in the beloved”**, Christ. *Eph 1:6.*

We are no longer “the children of God’s wrath,” *Eph 2:3,4.*

We have **peace** with God. *Rom 5:1.*

2. **Peace with other believers.** *Heb 12:14, 1Pet 3:11, 2Pet 3:14, Rom 14:19, 1Thes 5:13, Ps 34:14, Mat 5:24, Mat 6:14,15, Mat 18:15, Mk 11:25,26.*

As believers we are responsible to do all we can to be at peace with other Christians. God requires this of us. *Heb 12:14* and all the other commands of the Word of God.

- a. This involves us **forgiving** them all their sins and trespasses against us. If we do not forgive others God does not forgive us our sins. Unforgiven sin due to our failure to forgive others has drastic consequences. *Mat 18:23-25, note v 34,35.* Unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, against other believers cuts us off from divine grace and opens up our lives to evil attack.

Forgiveness is an act of the will. A choice to obey God’s Word. It does not absolve, “white-wash” or justify the wrong done by another. Forgiveness is a releasing of the other person from your own judgment and condemnation. It is passing the circumstances of the wrong done over to God for Him to sort out. As we have been forgiven, so we are to forgive others. Where wrongs have been committed, the Lord may well require us to follow the direction of *Mat18:15f.*

- b. This also involves acceptance of other believers as they are. If God has accepted and received them as they are, then we must do likewise, or we become judges of God. *Rom 14:1-5, Rom 15:7, Jam 2:1-4,9, Eph 1:6.* When we reject another true believer whom God has received then we are rejecting God.

- c. **Peace** with other believers includes actively praying God’s blessing and highest good for them, and “by love serving them”. *Gal 5:13.* We all differ in grace, race,

face (appearance), place (social level), doctrine, age, and many other aspects but in Christ He has made us all one.

3. **Peace with non-Christians.** *Heb 12:14* “peace with all men”, *1Tim3:7* a good report of non-Christians is necessary if a man would be a Christian leader, *Mat 5:25,26*. Settle arguments quickly, peacefully and walk in humility. This requires of us consideration for the needs of others, friendliness, co-operation, openness, honesty, faithfulness, pleasantness, helpfulness, and removing any just reproaches.

Don't smoke out the neighbour's section, house, washing, with your Saturday morning burn up. Watch the level of the stereo music from the lounge windows. A neighbour may be upset with the children leaping over his “precious hedge” to retrieve their ball.

4. **Peace with self.** Rejection, doubt, inferiority, fear, self belittling, self concern, insecurity are walls that hinder a person from being who they really are, and rob peace. *Lk 15:4* says that the Lord left the “99” in the fold and went out to seek for you, until he found you. *Zech 2:8* says you are the “apple of His eye”. He has not rejected you, set light by you or regarded you as inferior, less important, insignificant in any way, or in any degree.

He has chosen you, *Jn 15:16*, He has received you, *Rom 14:3*, He has accepted you, *Eph 1:6*, He has no favourites, *Rom 2:11*, and all are equal before Him. All of His children will receive the same reward if they are faithful to serve Him in the areas of service He has given them. *Col 3:22-24*, *Mat 25:14-23*. The slave and the apostle, those with few talents, or those with many, receive the same reward if they are faithful unto the Lord who has called them. *2Tim4:8*, *Col 3:22-24*, *Eph 6:5-8*, *1Cor 7:21-23*.

He does not compare us with others. Each one is unique, precious, created of God for Himself. He says we are not to compare ourselves with others. *Jn 21:22*, *Rom 14:4*, *1Cor 4:3,7*, *2Cor 10:12*, *Eph 2:10*.

Totally refuse all these negative walls that hedge in the true “you”. Confess His approval, acceptance, love, receiving, choosing and agree with God and His Word today.

“I am not rejected, I am accepted by God as His child through Jesus Christ. God is my Father, I am His son, His daughter, *2Cor 6:18*, He has chosen me, received me and I am a member of the family of God, my Father. This is the greatest family in the Universe, and will last for eternity.”

5. **Peace with creation.** Jesus ministered peace into creation and His natural surroundings. He gave authority to His disciples to do the same. *Mk 4:35-41*. Jesus had authority over storms and spoke peace. He rebuked His disciples for not ministering as He did, *Mk 4:40*.

He gave His disciples authority to speak the peace of God into houses, homes, buildings. This is very necessary to those who travel in the Gospel. *Lk 10:5,6*.

Evil spirits sometimes cause great disturbances when a servant of Christ Jesus arrives, but He has given us authority in His Name, to bind them and to establish His peace.