

Being Filled with Jesus, “*The Prince of Peace*”

If there’s anything our world needs it is **peace**. Confrontations between countries, clashes between cultures, fights in families, riots over race- all demonstrate our need for *peace*. But as Jesus implied to His disciples, the *peace* we so desperately need is “*not as the world gives,*” but **His peace**, John 14:27. The *world’s peace* is the mere *lack of conflict* or *freedom from chaos*. However, as long as men have free moral agency and some choose to use it for their own selfish purposes, that kind of “peace” will never exist, though efforts toward it will require the sacrifice of conscientious principles through capitulation and compromise. But God’s *peace*, attained through Jesus Christ, is (Grk. *eirene* /i·ray·nay) “the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is.”¹ The *world’s peace* requires the impossible (for man): the external *absence of conflict/chaos*; but *God’s peace* is the internal calm assurance that exists and remains regardless of what’s going on around you... and that allows you to deal with all of that conflict and chaos very differently than from those lacking it!

We need *peace* in several obvious areas:

1. **Peace with God.** Our world seems to have foolishly declared war on God, His Word, and His people, cf. Rom.1:18-32. We need had better *surrender* to Him and *plead of terms of peace*, as in Matt.5:25.
2. **Peace with Brethren.** Divisive issues and attitudes are destroying the “*unity of the Spirit in bond of peace*” God intended, cf. Eph.4:1-3. It’s no wonder the refrain of 1John is so often repeated, “*love one another*”!
3. **Peace with family.** It seems that every week we are confronted with some news story outlining the latest horrors we humans have devised to inflict on our own *flesh and blood*, cf. Rom.1:31. Those we ought to honor we betray; those we ought to protect we brutalize; those we ought to love we hate... is there no end... no peace from such things? God’s way works: *husbands love your wives and provide for and bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord; wives love and submit to your husband, and love and honor God and family; children respect, honor, and obey your parents in the Lord* Eph.5:22-33; 6:1-4; Titus 2:4-5.
4. **Peace with Fellowman/world.** Wars seem to have no limits to the atrocities they perpetrate, or an end to the conflict. Again, God’s *peace* resolves these things: *love and pray for your enemies, never return evil for evil or take your own revenge and respect what is right in the sight of all men, and do what is right to everyone*, cf. Matt.5:44-48; Rom.13:17-21. And certainly...
5. **Peace with Self.** Suicide is surely at an all-time high (no statistics needed). The *external* lack of peace either seems to **cause** *internal* lack of peace, or perhaps **stems from it**, and I’m unsure which is the case. But I know that both are destructive to *self*. Yes, there are *mental health issues* aplenty, but wouldn’t an *internal peace with self* attained from and through Jesus Christ go a long way toward if not solve most of our *peace issues* with others, 1John 3:18-21?

¹ Strong, J. (1995). [*Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon*](#). Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Isn't it simply tremendous that such peace can be found in *one source*: **Jesus Christ**, "the Prince of Peace." Isa.9:6-7a, "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. There will be no end to the increase of His government of peace..."

We need God's **peace** with our:

- **Past.** Many are in constant *turmoil* regarding the past. **Past failures:** learn from them; correct them as best you can; move forward in the *right* direction, Phil.3:13-16. **Past/passed loved ones:** Yes, you'll always love and miss them, but don't allow *their* passing to paralyze you in grief. After all, if they were true Christians, they're better off than you, Rev.14:13; Luke 16:22,25. If they weren't Christians, there is nothing that you can do about it or for them now. God is just/fair, and they are in His hands now. Let it (and them!) go. You'll never have true peace any other way. **Past opportunities:** can't be *changed*, but we can *change our minds, hearts, course, and direction* (true repentance) to take full advantage of *new ones*, cf. 1Tim.1:12-16! Make *peace with your past* now, in the *present*.
- **Present.** All too often we spurn the opportunities for *present peace* by constant grieving and reliving of the *past*, or by procrastination and delay until some *potential* future date that never seems to come, cf. Acts 24:22,24-27. Indeed, as Heb.3:7,13,15 clearly says, "Today" is the day! We are promised nothing else, Jas.4:13-17. Don't forfeit *present peace* by constantly reliving the *past*, or by putting it off to some *potential* day that may never come.
- **Prospect** (future). We're all too comfortable with *some day, eventually*, and many other phrases that we seek to insure our *prospects for peace*. "Mañana" is a Spanish term that may literally mean "tomorrow," but it is more often used as *not now*, perhaps *at some future but unspecified time*. That's *exactly* how we "see" and "deal with" our *prospects for peace*. We're not sure *how*, and we don't know *when*, we just "hope" it *sometime somehow* comes to us like *manna from heaven*. But think about it: In order to receive that *manna from heaven*, Israel had to become *uncomfortable with the conflict* of their *present* lives in slavery, stop *mourning for* or *blaming their past*, and secure their own *potential peace* by *leaving their past* behind, *doing what God said* in the *present*, and *fighting for their future prospects of peace* in, with, and through His blessings. Earlier I left off the reading in 1John 3 at v.21. Now go back and let's add vv.22-24. THIS is how we secure our *prospects for ETERNAL peace*!

Conclusion:

Does your soul long for peace with God, brethren, family, fellowman/world, and yourself? There's only one place it can be found: Jesus Christ. There's only one way to get it: make peace with your past by having your sins forgiven; make peace with your present by doing the right thing(s) now and be filled with Jesus; and you will secure your prospects for eternal peace with the Prince of Peace!