

No God, No Peace

Know God, Know Peace

This phrase may seem quite familiar to most of us as it has been around for quite some time. It has been on bumper stickers and maybe a t-shirt or two and I was not able to pin point an origin. It is self-explanatory, if you have no God in your life, you have no peace. If you know God, you will know peace. Now there is way more to it than just saying “I know God” to having the “peace of God.” Satan knows God and I doubt whether he has anything remotely close to God’s peace.

The way for us to finding the peace of God is in His Word. It will require more than just our reading the scriptures as we all know by now, it will involve our work.

Romans 5:1- “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I really do not need to remind anyone of the current state of our nation and the condition of the world at present. The economic and moral toilet we are in is being lauded like an Academy Award by the current administration and the dolts who blindly follow them. The kettle is boiling over but there is no one watching the

stove. It is like the captain is steering the ship but pays no attention to the fish swimming by the wheelhouse...you get the idea.

It seems nowadays, governments pretend to want to make peace and play friendly with everyone. But one can only guess the real negotiations are made in the back rooms and involve wire transfers of large sums of funds with multiple zeros and a few commas. Look at the war in Ukraine for example. Their efforts towards peace are as useful as putting a Band-Aid on a brain tumor.

If we define “peace” (according to the Free Dictionary on-line) it is: the absence of war or other hostilities, an agreement or treaty, freedom from quarrels and disagreement; harmonious relations, public security and order, inner contentment, serenity: peace of mind. (We have peace of mind as God’s chosen- **Psalm 119:165**- “Great peace have those who love Your law, and there is no stumbling block for them.”)

If we truly examine man’s history, we probably have not had a good stretch of peace since the bite of the apple in the Garden of Eden. Remember our own nation had a 92% time of conflict for our existence! I am sure there have been times of relative harmony and prosperity but you would think that with all the strides in

technology to make life easier we would be a little further ahead. But such is not the case. Since leaving God's way in the Garden of Eden, man has gone astray and chosen Satan's way of doing things. In the absence of God, any peace man may ever know will be limited and temporary. Satan's way always comes with a price.

It may have been difficult for mankind to really learn the way of peace apart from the One True God. Mans' very existence has always been associated with war and battles. We have glorified it over the centuries and made heroes out of the warriors and conquerors. Epic poems and great tales throughout history have magnified conflict.

Again, I am not the resident historian, but the development of military strength through the centuries led to the philosophy of peace through strength or military might. Phrases such as "Si Vis Pacem, Para Bellum," which translated means, "If you want peace, prepare for war" presents the insight that the conditions of peace are often preserved by a readiness to make war when necessary. It has been used by many leaders from Roman Emperor Hadrian in the second century AD to former US President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s and also in the movie the Punisher if you are a movie buff.

Former President Theodore Roosevelt said something along a similar line, "speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far," essentially meaning a strong presence

of preparedness for war must be known at all times. "Peace through strength" is a phrase that suggests that military power can help preserve peace.

With the absence of God in government it is easy for them to lie to us. Satan controls the airwaves so the news lies to us. Truth is absent from all forms of communication. So, it is not surprising that our nation is in the worst spiritual condition it has ever been in. God has been put on the shelf as man has a better way of doing things.

Romans 3:11- “There is not one who understands; there is not one who seeks after God.”

And worst of all, Churches lie to us! With the 30,000+ denominations of so called “Christian” churches out there preaching pretty much an anything goes theology, is it any wonder nobody wants to know God anymore? Why should anyone care to learn of a way of life that might require God forbid, a little sacrifice on their part!?

Romans 3:17- “And *the* way of peace they have not known.”

Isaiah 59:8- “They have not known the way of peace, and *there is* no justice in their ways. They have made crooked paths for themselves; whoever goes therein shall not know peace.”

Is there anyone one place to make the corrections first? I say this rather than point a finger. The sins of every human being on planet Earth (past, present, and future) put Jesus Christ on the cross, after that all else is moot, so we will simply identify one area and offer a solution. The Church.

1 Peter 4:17-18- “For the time *has come* for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it first *begins* with us, what *will be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? And if the righteous are saved with much difficulty, what will become of the ungodly and *the sinner*?”

So many of the mega-churches we see nowadays have so much internal strife and drama they forget just Who they are serving. Most are worshipping on the wrong day anyway so it is of no value. *God is not in their churches anymore.* At least in the sense of *His Word.* They have long since forgotten God’s true Word and edited it for content to fit their doctrine. Holy Days and the Sabbath do not fill the pews or collection plates. It is sad for them as so many have no peace, wondering about the “whole going to heaven” theology instead of knowing God and His plan of salvation for mankind. The peace that comes with knowing far outweighs any fairy tale of floating off to walk the streets of gold with grandma. No God, no peace.

It has been far more profitable to compromise God's Word to welcome the listener than to honor and worship God. TV preachers are the worst. If churches would get back to doing what God's word actually says and doing it just the way He says it, maybe things would turn around. But not likely...just yet. He will fix that at some point in the future.

Galatians 6:10- "So then, as we have opportunity, we should do good to all, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Remember last week we discussed some of the foundational beatitudes from Matthew 5 that develop the others? We must choose these traits to conduct ourselves humbly and set aside our own egos.

Ephesians 4:1-3- "Therefore, I, the prisoner of *the* Lord, am exhorting you to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called with all *humility* and *meekness*, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Serving the brethren in humility and putting the needs of others ahead of ourselves will grow the fruits of the spirits God desires for each of us. Spending more time

studying God's Word and getting to know Him will produce *peace* and prioritize and put other matters into proper perspective.

James 3:17-18- "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and without hypocrisy. Now *the* fruit of righteousness is sown in *peace* for those who make peace."

Peace With God Comes First

To truly know peace, we must come to know God. To truly know God, we must reconcile to Him first. This is the first step in becoming a peacemaker. Like growing in the beatitudes, we must be at peace with God first.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20- "Therefore, if anyone *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. And all things *are* from God, Who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation; Which *is*, that God was in Christ, reconciling *the* world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them; and He has entrusted to us *this* message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are

ambassadors for Christ; *and* God, as it were, is exhorting *you* through us. We beseech *you* on behalf of Christ, “Be reconciled to God.”

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

A few of us in this group were “peace officers.” Albeit, in most cases, the peace we were able to provide was not always permanent. It was usually accompanied or enabled by handcuffs, mace, or pepper spray, a PR-24/night stick, K-9 or other “implement.” All too often, we were jumped on by the spouse of the one who we were arresting that was just beating up the one who is now jumping on our backs! The peace would only last until the arrested party bonded out and the cycle would repeat itself a day or two later. Ah the good ole days...

Usually, we would turn chaos into order as quickly as possible and move on to the next call with as little paperwork as possible.

The description of godly peacemakers in Matthew 5:9 reveals that they are in the image and likeness of God! But we must do our part to grow in the areas mentioned to attain this level of service.

Our God is called a God of Peace and our Savior is called the Prince of Peace.

Hebrews 13:20-21- “And *may* the God of peace, Who raised our Lord Jesus from among *the* dead—that great Shepherd of the sheep—through *the* blood of *the* everlasting covenant, Perfect you in every good work in order that you may do His will; accomplishing in you that which *is* well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom *be the* glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

Isaiah 9:6- “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

As with our calling, it is one of service and preparation. It is not one of coasting and complacency. The qualities we will need to fulfill our roles in the coming Kingdom of God will not be handed out in a goodie bag or received via mail order. They need to be developed and refined now. Like wisdom, knowledge, and righteousness, we must pursue peace as well. We need to go after these things. They will not come to us!

Romans 14:18-19 “Because the one who serves Christ in these things *is* well pleasing to God and acceptable among men. So then, we should pursue the things of peace and the things that edify one another.”

Hebrews 12:14- “Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord;”

The peace of God goes far beyond any of man’s dictionary definitions of the end of conflicts or aggressions. We have been called for a far greater purpose that will guide us into the future in being a more confident peacemaker. We will be unyielding to man’s ways, rather always holding to the high standards of God. We know Him, we know peace.

Philippians 4:7- “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.” Amen.

BL-07/22/23

