

GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE | CHRISTMAS TOPICAL | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 12/21/2025

I. The Pronouncement of Peace | II. The Provision of Peace | III. The Promise of Peace

INTRO: The Christmas Season is upon us... **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!** – I've always loved Christmas time, even before I was a believer in Christ. – I always loved the Food and the Festivities with Family and Friends. – But what I used to love most... was that **PEOPLE were a just little bit nicer**. – In fact, a **"SEEMING PEACE"** would rest on people (*Emphasis on Seeming!*) – When Gifts were finally opened and the Season passed, so many returned to the **NORM OF LIFE**, having never received **THE GIFT** that they need most! – Today, I want to talk about the Only Gift that Satisfies... **GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE**

- After the Fall, God knew that **Waywardness and Dissatisfaction** in the hearts of mankind would result from **the SEPARATION** caused by the **entrance of sin**. He knew that we had **NO PEACE**, so the Divine Godhead determined **THE WAY** for **ALL** to **KNOW** HIS PEACE. (*So He offered it as a Gift*)

This GIFT of PEACE began with a Pronouncement...

I. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF PEACE: God want's His creation to **KNOW** His Peace. – Scripture highlights God's role in bringing **PEACE** and **RECONCILIATION** primarily through His Son. (*Messiah*)

A. In the Old Testament: First mention of this is found in (Gen 3:15), where **God tells the serpent**, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **HE** will crush your head, and you will strike **HIS** heel." (*No name mentioned...Only Pronouns - First Gospel! – Redemption Plan*)

1. **HE** would Be a Virgin-born Savior who would become like us, to deliver people from sin.

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son** and shall call His name **Immanuel**" (Isa 7:14). i.e., **God WITH us... God LIKE us! And God FOR us...**

2. **HE** was Given to Lead us... "For unto us a Child is born, **unto us a Son is given**; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called **Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, PRINCE OF PEACE**" (Isa 9:6). **God's Son** is **the Greatest Gift** that man could ever receive!

P/A – Other OT prophecy passages include (Psalm 22; Dan 9; Zech 9:9) **climaxing** in the promise of His ultimate victory over sin and death.

B. In the New Testament: We mainly find **Pronouncements carried out by Angels**. – The first was a Pronouncement by the angel **Gabriel to Zacharias** about his son John, who would be the forerunner of the Christ, who would **"...go before HIM in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."** (Luke 1:17).

1. The Main Pre-birth Pronouncement of THE GIFT in found **in the Annunciation TO MARY** (Luke 1:26-38). – The angel **Gabriel Visits Mary** to tell her **she will conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God**, who will be called Immanuel (God with us). (*His pronouncement linked the prophecy to the birth*)

2. The Pronouncement to **Shepherds** (tt. Luke 2:8-13,15-20) – The shepherds were **TOLD**, then **INVESTIGATED**, then found it to be **TRUE**, then they **RETURNED** glorifying God. (*With Satisfying Results*)

3. The Pronouncement of **GLORY** and **PEACE** **was sung by a heavenly host of angels in** (Luke 2:14), **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"** [NASB] translates it better; **"And on earth PEACE among people with whom He is pleased"** (As with the Shepherds! i.e., Men of Good Will)

- The Pronouncement of Messiah in the NT **WAS NECESSARY** to fulfill the OT prophecies of the divine Son who will bring redemption, restore God's kingdom, end suffering, and provide a path for humanity to reconcile with God, which results in PEACE!

P/A – These PRONOUNCEMENTS were spread throughout history, until the time was right (Gal 4:4-5), *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to REDEEM those who were under the law, that WE might receive the adoption as sons.* – God Pronounced His Plan then He **ACTIVATED** it!

II. THE PROVISION OF PEACE: Apart from Christ we are all left with a deep spiritual sense of Separation Anxiety. – Many fail to even recognize the emptiness in their own soul! – God knew this and that is why **HE Freely Offered His Son to ALL!** – A Peace Offering! (Quote: John 3:16) – Many may have hear about this **FREE Gift**, Yet they ARE still estranged from God's "PEACE." Why?

- (Isa 59:1-2), *Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.* This is **WHY!** So then...

A. God Sent His Son Jesus Christ to Bring Reconciliation. – “... to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Col 1:20)

- **RECONCILIATION** {*katallassō*} is the act of restoring a broken relationships, *especially between God and humanity, through Christ's sacrifice*, while **PEACE** {*shalom*} is the result or state of wholeness, harmony, and well-being that flows from being reconciled to God.
- Reconciliation is **the Active Process** (*like bridging a gap*), whereas Peace is the resulting Fullness and Tranquility FOUND in that restored relationship, involving holistic well-being, not just the absence of conflict.
 - As a kid in the 70's, I distinctly remember **A Unique Bumper Sticker** proclaiming, **“I Found It!”** – I didn't know what it meant until many years later when, **I found it!** – The **“It”** in, **I Found It**, meant **“a New Life in Christ”** (i.e., I Found a new life in Christ). *This was because...*

B. Jesus Came to Bring Peace – **JESUS** is the only One who can **MAKE PEACE** between God and rebellious, sinful human beings. – (Rom 5:10), *While we were God's enemies, “we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

1. Jesus Paid the Penalty for Our Sins so that **God's Wrath** could be turned away from us and **we could have Peace with God**. – **Peace and Forgiveness IS AVAILABLE to ANYONE who trusts Jesus for salvation.** – (Rom 5:1). *“Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”* – When we believe in Jesus and **ASK GOD** for forgiveness of our sins, by **FAITH** we become **Justified!** [*JUST_IF_I'd had no sin!*]

2. Author J.C. Ryle in his book; *Foundations of Faith*, writes: *“Without justification it is impossible to have real peace. Conscience forbids it. Sin is a mountain between a man and God and must be taken away. The sense of guilt lies heavy on the heart and must be removed. Unpardoned sin will murder peace. The true Christian knows all this well. His peace arises from a consciousness of his sins being forgiven, and his guilt being put away. ... He has peace with God, because he is justified.”*

P/A – This Gift of **PEACE** includes Reconciliation, Forgiveness, and Justification before **God** and it's **FREE!**

CLOSING THOUGHT: If our greatest need had been **Information**, God would have sent us an **Educator**; If our greatest need had been **Technology**, God would have sent us a **Scientist**; If our greatest need had been **Money**, God would have sent us an **Economist**; If our greatest need had been **Pleasure**, God would have sent us an **Entertainer**; But our greatest need was **PEACE** and **Reconciliation with God through forgiveness**, so God **PROVIDED a Savior!**

This GIFT of PEACE is multiplied in His Son...

III. THE PROMISE OF PEACE: **God desires His creation to ABIDE in His Peace!** – Peter tells us in (2 Pet 1:2) **Grace and Peace be MULTIPLIED to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord!** – A lot of Christians will say "Amen!" to this truth, but **HONESTLY**, sometimes it's hard to really walk in the Peace Christ has given us. – For many of us, **WORRY** seems to come more naturally!

- The late **Earl Nightingale (1921-1989, an American radio broadcaster, author, and motiv. speaker)**, provided a statistic on: **The Breakdown of Worry**, concluding that: **"8% our worries are worth concerning ourselves with"** but **92% of our worries are pure "fog,"** with no substance at all!
- **Satan wants us to waste our time in worry**, because he knows that **worry is the enemy of faith**, and **"without faith we cannot please God"** (Heb 11:6). – **Satan seeks to Produce Panic**, but...

A. Jesus Promises Us Something Different! – In (John 14:27) He says, **Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

1. His Peace is **Rooted in the Assurance of God's Love and Salvation PLAN**. – It transcends external circumstances and **remains steadfast even in times of trouble**.

2. His Peace is **SUSTAINED by ABIDING in HIM**, allowing His Peace to **RULE** in our hearts, (Col 3:15) **let the peace of God RULE in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

- **Inner Peace:** **People all over the world are in search of Inner Peace.** – Mental health pros tell us that **the Christmas holidays**, the time of **"peace on earth,"** is often one of the most depressing seasons because expectations go unmet and stress multiplies...etc. – **NO PEACE!**
- **Perfect Peace: Can be attained!** – Isaiah tells us that **God grants Perfect Peace to those who particularly seek Him** (Isa 26:3). – This verse highlights that **God grants deep, unwavering peace** (lit. **shalom, shalom** in Heb.), **to THOSE who FIX their FOCUS and TRUST on HIM**, even amidst life's challenges; **offering a quiet confidence and mental rest.** (*How many of you need Shalom, Shalom?*)

B. Shalom, Shalom is the True Peace we all long for because it's the Peace God designed us for!

1. **Continued Peace as a believer requires a STEADFAST MIND:** A mind that is stayed, fixed, focused, unswerving, and leaning on God, not easily moved by circumstances. – (Phil 4:7) describes this as **"the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"**.

2. **Continued Peace as a believer requires TRUST:** Confident reliance, hope, and commitment to God, recognizing Him as an eternal, unshakeable foundation. – **In Essence:** **When you keep your thoughts, desires, and focus anchored on God, trusting in His promises and character, He promises to keep you in a profound, enduring peace that protects your inner life.**

P/A – **The Peace that Jesus brought was not a Political Peace or an end to wars.** Rather, it is a Peace that **begins in the heart**, when individuals are reconciled to God, and as **THEY ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE**. – **It's the Peace that comes to men of Good will!**

CLOSING THOUGHTS: As we celebrate Christmas this year, may we be reminded that the PEACE of CHRIST is available to ALL who seek it. – **And as we Receive HIS Gift,** may we be empowered to **SHARE IT** with a world in desperate need of Peace and Goodwill. – Let this be the season where the Peace on Earth proclaimed by the angels becomes **A Reality in Our Hearts, Homes, and Communities.**