



THE PEACE OF GOD

The June 6, 2021 theme for worship for our congregation is Peace. We are in a series of studies that deal with the fruits of the Spirit. Peace is one of these fruits and all Christians should know that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit can bring a peace and the peace that God promises to Christians is different from the peace that the world can offer. This peace is available to anyone who will truly believe and obey Christ and is totally unavailable to those who refuse to believe and obey Christ.

Nations and governments want to have peace in the world, and they can do a great deal to have worldly peace, but governments cannot provide the peace that God can provide. Generally, governments can seek to provide a world peace that is defined primarily as the absence of war. The peace God provides is far different from absence of war and in fact it does not include the absence of troubles in life. But God offers to provide a peace, to each individual, in the midst of trouble, **John 14:27 (NASB)** *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.* This peace that God provides is the kind of peace Paul and Silas had when they were praying and singing songs of praise to God at midnight sitting in the stocks of a Roman prison in Phillipi, and the prisoners were listening to them. **Acts 16:22-25 (NASB)** *The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; This is the*

kind of peace that God promises to those who believe and obey him.

2,000 years ago, God stepped into human history in the form of his Son, Jesus the Christ and the world has not been the same since that event and the things it brought to earth. On that still, cold, night God brought forth his Son, born of woman, under the law to ultimately bring reconciliation between man and God. **Luke 2:7-14 (NASB)** *And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 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."*

This great gift from God brought a promise of a peace that is beyond understanding that we can have as Christians and that we should be proclaiming to the world. Only when the world turns to God will there be this kind of peace and this comes one soul at a time. As we worship God in our June 6 assembly we are to focus on this peace, what it means to us, how thankful we should be to God for this peace he has provided for and to us, and we should be proclaiming to the world. Come to worship this Sunday to join with us in praise to God for the peace that he has brought to each of us through the gift of his son, Jesus the Christ.

--Johnie N. Jenkins