

The Power of Christmas

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley
Sunday, December 24, 2023

What is greater than peace? If peace could be bought, could we afford it? After all, cost is determined by supply and demand. Surely there is a great need and demand for peace today, but there is a major shortage of supply.

True peace can only be experienced through a personal relationship with God. Sin separates man from God, and because of sin, there is enmity between him and God. This is why Jesus came. He came to save us from sin and to reconcile us with our heavenly Father. In Christ, we have peace with God resulting in rest for our souls.

“Peace doesn’t come from the absence of trouble but by the presence of God.”

Luke 2:9–10 (NASB) ⁹ And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰ 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;

Luke 2:13–14 (NASB) ¹³ And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

When it comes to peace on earth among men, there is a major short supply.

- The lack of peace among men comes from a lack of peace within God.

Isaiah 57:20–21 (NASB) But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud. “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Man’s relationship with God is one of estrangement. Because of sin, there is enmity between God and man.

Psalms 7:11 (NASB) ¹¹ God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.

The good news heralded by the angels after the birth of Jesus Christ, was that the savior had come. He was a little baby born in Bethlehem under the humblest of circumstances. The savior of the world was lying in a trough made for feeding the animals.

It was the humblest of people to whom the angels were sent to herald this good news and not to the political nor the spiritual elite as the religious sect of the Pharisees were considered to be.

The message was one of peace and reconciliation with God. For God had sent His Son into the world to save His people from their sins.

The Power of His Forgiveness.

His Authority

John 1:12 (NASB95) ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

His Promise

Acts 2:38 (NASB95) ³⁸ Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- The gift of the Holy Spirit speaks to the new birth.

The Power to Start and Live a New Life.

Romans 6:5–7 (NASB95) ⁵ For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; ⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NASB95) ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

- The new life in Christ is one lived in the presence of God. The power of Christmas has brought reconciliation with God.

The Power of Reconciliation.

Romans 5:1 (NASB95) ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Matthew 11:28 (NASB95) ²⁸ “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

True peace is not mind over matter; it’s not positive thinking.

- Peace does not come from the absence of trouble but from the presence of God!

The Power of His Presence

Philippians 4:6–7 (NASB95) ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

“You didn’t want heaven without us, so Jesus you brought heaven down.”
(from the song – What a Beautiful Name)

This was the message of the angels.

“God wants a relationship with you.

He has sent, to you, a savior, Jesus Christ, (His Son) to make a way.

The Power of Christmas is the power of reconciliation with God.

Luke 2:11 (NASB95) ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:14 (NASB95) ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”