

The Greatest Gift

Pt. 2, The Gift of Peace

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NLT: Luke 2:8-14 “That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. 9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” 13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

I. JESUS CAME TO BRING PEACE TO US

A. Peace is not the absence of problems, it’s the presence of Jesus in the middle of them.

Is 9:6 For a Child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders and he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

Gen 1:1-2 “in the beginning God. Created the heavens and earth. The earth was formless and void and darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”

B. Jesus gives peace with God

Romans 5:1 We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Jesus gives peace to Lead Us

John 14:27 “My peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let our hearts be troubled and not be afraid.”

II. JESUS CAME TO MAKE PEACE FOR US

Colossians 1:19–20 “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

A. Peace didn’t come cheaply

B. Reconciliation is the heart of the gospel

C. Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker

III. WE ARE CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

Matthew 5:9 — “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God.”

A. Peacekeepers and peacemakers are NOT the same

B. A peacemaker reflects the heart of God

C. How do we actively make peace?

1. Speak peace - Proverbs 15:1 — “A soft answer turns away wrath.”
2. Pursue reconciliation
3. Practice forgiveness
4. Live Spirit-led, not emotion-led
5. Bring peace into the environment
6. Refuse to exchange Peace for Comfort

IV. CHRISTMAS REMINDS US THAT PEACE IS NOW A MISSION, NOT JUST A MESSAGE

Big Truths

Jesus came to bring peace **TO** us.

Jesus came to make peace **FOR** us.

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers **THROUGH** Him.