

Heart for the Holidays – A Peaceful Heart

December 3-4, 2022

John 16:32-33 (NIV) – “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet, I am not alone, for my Father is with me. I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world”.

“**take heart**” = Greek *tharseo* – “to be of good courage; bold” – HELPS: “to be bolstered or emboldened from within

Psalms 139:1-6 (NIV) – “You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain”.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV) – “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. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this”.

Hebrews 1:3 (NIV) – “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven”.

Romans 5:1-2a (NIV) – “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand”.

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“Some people encounter Jesus and say, ‘Sweet! Jesus, do you want to join the party of my life with this sin, that addiction, this destructive relationship, and we’ll all just coexist together?’ But repentance means saying, ‘Sweet Jesus, you are the best thing that has ever happened to me! I want to turn from all the sin and selfishness that rules me. I want to let it go and walk with you. Only you. You are my life now. Help me to walk away from the enslaving, worthless things in life’” – **Francis Chan, *Forgotten God***

Luke 2:8-11 (NIV) – And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified (mind you, this is ONE angel). But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord”.

Luke 2:13-14 (NIV) – Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests”.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) - “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”.

Isaiah 26:1-4 (NIV) – In that day, this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal”.

Romans 12:17-19 (NKJV) - “Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as it depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay’, says the Lord”.

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Ephesians 2:14-18 (NIV) – “For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit”.

“Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die” – ***T.D. Jakes et al.***