

**There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays - PEACE**

*Psalm 46:10-11; Isaiah 11:1-10; Isaiah 26:3; Luke 1:26-38*

"A Christmas Story" is a film filled with \_\_\_\_\_, controversy, and conflict. Yet, it's through these things that it also teaches us about \_\_\_\_\_.

There appear to be at least \_\_\_\_\_ ways we think about peace:

\_\_\_\_\_, the absence of activity, or "peace and quiet", when we can "hear ourselves think"

Mutual cooperation, the absence or end of \_\_\_\_\_ and fighting, or "all is well"

Inner \_\_\_\_\_ undisturbed by outward circumstances

The world can only deliver two of these. \_\_\_\_\_ was sent to us at Christmas to give us all three.  
*Perfect peace is putting the Prince of Peace in his proper place.*

We are our own worst \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to this first kind of peace. We look for distractions the moment we are left to our own thoughts. Whatever you want to drown out, bring it to Jesus. He will help you find \_\_\_\_\_.

In a world where \_\_\_\_\_ is always lurking, it's easy to fall behind, and the world demands we \_\_\_\_\_ our value, Jesus enters and says, "Come to me...I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-30)

In this life there are all kinds of conflicts. Conflict isn't always bad. But when we're dealing with sinners - ALL of us! - things get messy. When we do achieve peace it is usually short lived. How do we find this peace?

Sin is ultimately about a conflict humans have with God. We declared \_\_\_\_\_ on God. We believe he is "out to get us" and his commands are meant to "oppress" us. So, we \_\_\_\_\_ them. Yet, we still feel \_\_\_\_\_.

As bad things happen we assume God is \_\_\_\_\_ at us. God sent his Son to bring peace. He wants good for us. He won peace for us through \_\_\_\_\_, much like what happened between Ralphie and his Mom.

But \_\_\_\_\_ things do happen and often cause a lot of chaos in our lives. How can we have peace even in that?  
*"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." - Isaiah 26:3*

Jesus came to defeat sin, Satan, and death through the cross and empty tomb. Nothing we've done has power over us. Nothing anyone else does has power over us. Christ is crucified! Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

Christ will also one day return. All that burdens us and afflicts us will be gone forever. All that will remain will be at perfect peace with its Creator and all other creatures. All enemies and conflict will be gone. (Isaiah 11)

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." - John 16:33*

What kind of peace are you most in need of right now?

How is God showing you the limitations of earthly, temporal peace?

How is he calling you to find perfect peace in the Prince of Peace?