

THE PROMINENT ASPECTS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS

Part 5: PEACE WITH GOD

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TGOCM

WHAT IS PEACE: The word for peace, in the Greek texts, seems to be from a primary verb meaning "join." We have been joined to God through Jesus Christ. According to Thayer's Lexicon, peace implies "security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)."

E.W. Bullinger, in his Lexicon and Concordance, adds to Thayer's definition: peace "denotes a state of untroubled, undisturbed well-being."

Thayer's Lexicon also states, "Peace also refers to the tranquil state of the believer having hope in Christ's return because he is assured of his salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God as the Judge of man."

Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines peace as:

1. In a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquility; freedom from disturbance or agitation; applicable to society, to individuals, or to the temper of the mind.
5. Freedom from agitation or disturbance by the passions, as from fear, terror, anger, anxiety or the like; quietness of mind; tranquility; calmness; quiet of conscience.

The record in 2 Chron. 18:1-3 exemplifies peace in that two kings who were at war with each other made peace (joined themselves to each other) through the marriage of their children.

"Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a marriage alliance with Ahab. 2 After some years he went down to Ahab in Samaria. And Ahab killed an abundance of sheep and oxen for him and for the people who were with him, and induced him to go up against Ramoth-gilead. 3 Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me to Ramoth-gilead?" He answered him, "I am as you are, my people as your people. We will be with you in the war."" (2Chron. 18:1-3 ESV)

These two kings were allies. They were at peace with each other. They were joined together therefore uniting their resources for a battle. We have peace with God! The Body of Christ is joined to God. His resources are pooled with ours, so that the will of God would "be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt. 6:10).

Jesus Christ was one with the Father. He had peace with God. What did Jesus Christ do because he shared in the resources of God? He manifested God's resources: God's provision and protection were realized through him! This is God's design for all who have peace with him.

We have been justified by Jesus Christ, meaning that he satisfied God's justice against every sin in our behalf. As a result, we have peace with God.

"Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;" (Rom. 5:1 ASV)

Jn. 14:27: We have been given the same peace Jesus Christ experienced with God. It is NOT a peace which the world can provide: types of supposed peace while still separated from God. Jesus Christ experienced peace as one joined to God. He gave his peace to us!

“I leave peace with you; I give my peace to you: not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it fear.” (Jn. 14:27 DBY)

Joined to God, our hearts cannot be troubled or afraid. In Christ is true peace. He is our peace, our connection to God.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but have courage, I have overcome the world.” (Jn. 16:33 EMTV)

Thinking according to the spirit results in the realization of life and peace.

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” (Rom. 8:5-6 ESV)

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; 13 forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any should have a complaint against any; even as the Christ has forgiven you, so also do *ye*. 14 And to all these add love, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of Christ preside in (direct, umpire, govern) your hearts, to which also ye have been called in one body, and be thankful.” (Col 3:12-15 Darby)

Jesus Christ gave up his life on our behalf, so we could be joined:

1. To each other- the context of Col. 3:15, ***“let the peace of Christ preside in your hearts”*** is the one Body of Christ. We have been joined together by Christ. We are the family of God.
 - a. In verse 13 our direction is to be ***“forbearing and forgiving one another”***. “Forbearing” means *to put up with, to forbear, tolerate*. “Forgiving” is a derivative of *charis* (grace). It is not the most common Greek word translated as forgive. The Greek word used here means *to favor, as in to do favors for, in kindness to help, to pardon, to rescue*.
 - b. As we learn to accept each other as God says we are, then we conclude and think of each other as ones whom Christ died for, and therefore we are joined to each other. This drives us toward putting up with each other’s flesh, and even helping each other in acts of kindness.
2. To God- sharing resources with him. We are no longer enemies of God. He is on our side (Rom. 8:31) because we have been joined to Him. He says to us, ***“All that I have is yours. All that you have is mine. I have joined us together as one. Learn to let this reality direct you. Then you will experience the joy of being in partnership with me.”***