

The Prince of Peace Can Give You Peace

Philippians 4:7

We have an anchor. Welcome to the anchor of the sole television program supported by the Churches of Christ. Please join us for the next half hour as we study together from God's Word, grounded, firm, and deep in the Savior's love.

It is a marvelous thing to enjoy peace and life. You know, I think about the home, one of the divine institutions that God instituted and the long ago. And the home is intended to be a tremendous blessing to the human family. Many of us, we're thankful for the warmth, love and concern and care that is a part of our home life.

And yet, the flip side to that is that there are a lot of homes that lack the peace and love that God would desire, that those who are part of that household would desire. You know, the Lord Jesus said on one occasion, A house divided against itself cannot stand. A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. How many homes today have been broken?

There's division, enmity. There's really no peace. And yet there are many people today who, because of problems in their home life, they're longing for peace. They're looking for peace individually. Are there not people in our world today that are grasping for peace? Their lives have been battered and burdened. Their lives are filled with guilt, remorse over their past.

And they're looking for peace, you know. Isaiah the prophet said many years ago, there is no peace as my God for the wicked. I promise you, there are people in our world today. They are looking in all the wrong places for peace. Some individuals will go to bed tonight in a drunken stupor because they're searching for peace. They're on that quest.

They're looking for serenity in life. And yet they never find it. Because when they get up the next day, guess what? All of the problems that they had been able to wash away the night before, right back on them. And so what about peace? Would it be possible for us today to enjoy the peace that passes all understanding, as Paul talks about in Philippians chapter four?

I'm convinced that peace can be a reality in our lives, and the only one that can really give us the peace that we're longing for looking for is Jesus, the Son of God. I mean, that's it. You know, back in Isaiah chapter nine at verse six, the prophet had foretold of the birth, the virgin birth of Christ. Emmanuel, God with us.

And you remember in chapter nine at verse six, Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah as the Prince of Peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. And here's the beauty of it. The Prince of Peace came to give you peace. Did you know that God wants you to have peace in life? That he wants you to experience the peace that passes all understanding that can be a reality.

You can enjoy that kind of peace. But in order to gain that kind of peace in life, you've got to look to the right person. And that would be Jesus, a Son of God. Now, I understand we live in a world that has been ripped apart, torn apart by sin. Oh, I know that there are those today that have the idea that, you know, sin's really not that big of a deal.

Some would say it's just preacher talk. Well, the Bible tells us that sin is a reality. And we could go all the way back to the garden, and we find sin making its inception into the world. Adam and Eve, instructed by God not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and

evil. Because God said, the day you eat thereof, you will surely die.

Well, in Genesis chapter three, the Bible tells us the serpent came on the scene, lied to mother Eve. She transgressed the law of God. Adam likewise taken in the temptation, taken in transgression. And so sin came into the world. And yet, despite the sin of man, God and his great love, mercy, and grace stepped in, intervened on behalf of the first couple on behalf of the human family to come.

And the Bible tells us he began unfolding his redemptive plan in justice. 315 A promise was made, the promised seed that would come in the form of a messiah, that it would take the word, the eternal word, coming to this world, inhabiting human flesh, dying for the sins of humanity so that we might enjoy peace and fellowship with God.

Now, it's interesting to me when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. The Bible doesn't tell us. The Bible doesn't say anything about Adam and Eve reaching up to God, asking for a reconciliation, asking for fellowship. No. The Bible presents God reaching down to the crown of his creation, reaching down so that man might be afforded the blessings, the privileges of peace.

Isaiah said, and I said, 59 verses one and two, that sin separates us from God. And so you have the crown of God's creation, estranged because of sin. And yet the promised seed was God's answer to sin. Now the Bible tells us in Romans chapter three, there's an unrighteous no, not one. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

John would say in verse John chapter three, verse four that sin is the transgression of the law. Okay? If sin is the problem, to realize Jesus is the answer. The Lord Jesus himself said on one occasion, I'm the way, the truth, the life. No man comes unto the father but by me. I mentioned a moment ago when I say is said concerning the coming of the Messiah, that he would be the Prince of Peace.

Do you remember when the Lord Jesus came into this world and that angelic host praised God, crying out. Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth, goodwill toward man. God's answer to sin had made his entrance into the world. No wonder John the Baptist said, Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world.

To realize that Jesus is the answer. So let's just think for a moment or two about the price of peace, the price for our peace did not come cheaply, nor was a matter of fact. The Bible tells us that in order for us to enjoy redemption, it cost the Lord Jesus Christ His own life. In Colossians one, at verse 20, Paul said that Jesus has made peace through the blood of his cross.

Now think about that for a minute. Here is the second member of the Godhead, the word who literally came to earth, gave up the glories of heaven, came to earth, inhabited human flesh for the purpose of redeeming us, reconciling us to the father. Now, again, we talk about the price of our redemption. Here's what the Bible says concerning the father, that he spared not his own son, but freely gave him up for us all.

You see, the redemptive plan revolved around the word that is, the logos coming to earth, inhabiting human flesh and going to Calvary and dying for our sins. Now, what does that say about God's great mercy, love, and grace? Paul would say in Ephesians chapter two, But God, who is rich in mercy for the great love, for with he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, made us alive together with Christ.

He said, by grace are you saved? When we talk about the finished work of Christ on Calvary,

there is not one thing we can do to contribute to the redemptive plan of God. God is taking care of all of that. The question is, how do we enjoy those privileges? How do we enjoy those blessings? You remember what Paul said in Titus chapter two?

In verse 11 he said, the grace of God has appeared. Listen to him bringing salvation to every man. The blood of Jesus has the ability to cover the sins of the human family. It is only the blood of Jesus that has the ability, the power to wash away our sins. So again, the price. The price of peace. Do you remember what Paul said?

And Ephesians chapter one? In verse seven, the apostle Paul would say, in him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his grace. God's grace, God's mercy, his rich mercy extended to us as members of the human family. Why? So that we might enjoy the blessings of salvation. Now, I want you to think about a passage that is found in First Timothy chapter two.

Paul tells us that God would have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. The all there is humankind, both males and females. No exclusions. God wants all men to be saved. Peter said, God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So in first Timothy chapter two, when Paul said, God would have all men to be saved, come to the knowledge of the truth.

He said, there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom. You see, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord Jesus Christ, was willing to come to earth, tabernacle in human flesh and go to Golgotha. Go to Calvary and down across so that I might enjoy a reconciliation with God now.

Picture it like this. When man sinned in the garden, you had the human family on one side, God the Father on the other. And now Jesus steps between the two parties and mediates. Again, we talk about the Lord Jesus making peace through the blood of his cross. When Jesus died on Calvary, in effect it was a bringing together the two parties, the human family and the father.

Now we enjoy fellowship with God. When you when you read in Ephesians chapter two, the Apostle Paul in the long ago talked about those who came out of a Jewish background. Some came out of a Gentile background, but he talked about in chapter two those that at one time didn't enjoy a covenant relationship with God. They were without hope, without God in the world.

But he said, Now in Christ Jesus, you that once were far off, brought near by the blood of Christ. Now listen to him, for he is our peace. The Lord Jesus, he's the one that has provided peace. And Ephesians two verse 16, Paul said that Jesus reconciled both you and Gentile in one body unto God through the cross.

That was God's plan. The design was to save the entirety of the human family in one divine body, which is known as the church. Which brings us to another thought, and that is the place of peace. How can I find peace in this world? I mean to you, in a moment ago that Jesus came to bring peace. Did you know that Paul in Romans chapter ten at verse 15 speaks of those who preach the gospel?

And he said, they preach the gospel of peace. They bring glad tidings of good things to those who are lost and dying in sin. That's why the gospel is so relevant. Now, there are a lot of messages in the world. There are messages that we appreciate hearing, but there is not a greater message known to man than the gospel of Christ.

It is, as Paul said, the power of God unto salvation. The Hebrew writer said, it's living and active and sharper than any to its sword. The Word of God has the ability to pierce the hardest of hearts and bring those individuals to the Christ. So let's just talk for a moment or two about the place of peace. In Romans chapter five at verse one, Paul said, therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So what Paul is saying is that through our obedience to the gospel, I think about the system of faith produces individual faith. And based upon my faith, I can respond with an obedient heart. I respond to the gospel. So let me ask this question where would you say salvation is located? Well, Paul said, Second Timothy chapter two, verse ten, I do all things for the sake that they may obtain salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

In chapter two, verse one, Paul would instruct Timothy to be strong and the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Let's pause there for a minute. God's grace located where in Christ? Salvation located? Where in Christ? Okay, if God's grace is located in Christ, salvation is located in Christ. The question of the hour. How do we get into Christ and why would we want to be in Christ?

Well, because it's in Christ that we have peace. In John 16:33, Jesus said, these things I've spoken to you. Now listen to him that in me you may have peace. He said, in the world you have tribulation. Be of good cheer. I've overcome the world. In John 14, Jesus, in talking to the apostles about his impending death and the fact that he would be leaving them, said, peace I leave with you.

My peace I give to you. Now listen to what he said. Not as the world gifts do I give to you. No, no. The peace I have is not like worldly peace. No, this is on a different plane. We're talking about the kind of peace that brings about a sense of serenity in our heart. The fact that we can enjoy, as Paul would say, the peace that passes all understanding when all be the gospel of Christ.

Paul said that I enjoy peace with God. Again, you think about God the Father and mankind being reconciled by our mediator, by the one who makes intercession for us, that being Christ. So again, we ask the question, how do we get into Christ? Well, the only way that I know that individuals can get into Christ is by being baptized into Christ.

Now, listen, don't take my word for it. No, let's go to the scriptures. You remember the Bereans in Acts chapter 17, in verse 11, where the Bible says that those who were in Berea, they were more noble than those in Thessalonica. Why was that? Well, because they received the Word of God with all readiness of mind or heart.

And they searched the scriptures daily to see whether those things were so well, what were they doing? They were checking out. They were doing their homework or their investigation. They were making sure that what Paul and Silas taught them was grounded or rooted in a thus saith the Lord. They wanted to make sure that what they heard matched up with what the record says.

So what about us today? Would it stand to reason that we want to stand on indisputable ground, that we want to make sure that what we do religiously is founded upon, based upon the timeless Word of God? So how do I get into Christ? In Galatians chapter three, Paul said, you're all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Now let's just pause there for a minute. Paul said that those who have been baptized into Christ, they have put on Christ. We're answering the question, how do I get into Christ? Well, Paul said,

we're baptized in the Christ. Now, that being the case, look at Romans chapter six.

In Romans chapter six, Paul said, no, you're not that. All we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Question. Why do I need to be baptized into the death of Christ Jesus? Well, because Jesus shed his blood in death. John 19:33 and 34. And if I want to access that blood, I must go where it was shed.

Jesus shed his blood in death. We mentioned a moment ago, Colossians 1:20, where Paul said that Jesus has made peace through the blood of his cross, that Jesus reconciled both you and Gentile in one body unto God through the cross. Reconciliation. Located where in the body of Christ. Redemption where in Christ. So if we're in Christ, we access God's grace.

We access salvation. We access the blood of Christ. Furthermore, we're said to be added to the body of Christ. Acts two, verse 47. Paul would write in first Corinthians chapter 12, verse 13. By one spirit we all baptized into one body. It is through the message of the spirit, the Holy Spirit, that we come to understand what we must do to be saved.

On Pentecost day, when those who were present in Jerusalem heard the gospel preached by Peter and the apostles, you remember the Bible says, they were cut to the heart, pricked on their heart, and they cried out to Peter and the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? Now there are those today, so you don't have to do anything.

Well, if that's the case, why did Peter say, repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. Now that's what an inspired apostle said. Who am I to change that? I don't have the authority to do that. No, the Lord Jesus has all authority. Matthew 28:18 God the Father said, we're to hear him.

Matthew 17:5 so whatever the Lord says about salvation, I want to make sure that I am in lockstep with that. When Peter instructed those people in the name of Jesus Christ to be baptized, what he was saying is based upon the authoritative Word of Christ. You're to repent and be baptized. Why? For the remission of forgiveness of your sins.

Listen to Jesus. Mark 16:16. He that believeth and his baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not shall be condemned. So Jesus placed belief and baptism before salvation. Look, in recording the words of Peter placed repentance and baptism before forgiveness. Now when they obeyed the gospel, what happened? Well, the Bible says on Pentecost day, about 3000 souls were added to them in verse 44, in verse 47.

The Bible says, the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved so were baptized into Christ. But let's go back and look at Galatians three again, because in Galatians three Paul said, it's in this context of being baptized into Christ. There's neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor male nor female, for all are one in Christ. If you're Christ, you're Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.

Now wait a minute. How did Jews and Gentiles feel about each other? Well, if you know anything at all about history and about the scriptures, you know that the Jews despised the Gentiles. You remember in John chapter four, when the Lord Jesus took time out of his busy ministry to sit down or to talk to a woman at Jacob's Well?

And during the course of their conversation, Jesus asked her for a drink of water, and from that began to talk to her about living water when she was interested. So Jesus said, I want you to go call your husband. She said, I don't have a husband. And Jesus said, well, you spoken correctly. You've you've had five husbands. The man you now have not your husband in this you've said correctly.

And she said, sir, I perceive that you're a prophet. Oh, she was on to something here, wasn't she? Listen, the Lord Jesus radically changed her life. Do you think this woman had peace in life? I mean, are there not people in our world today? They have had all kinds of family problems. Some have had problems socially. Some have have problems financially.

I mean, there are so many problems that plague people. And they like peace. And yet peace is found in Christ and in the body of Christ. So Jews and Gentiles, they didn't like each other, and yet they were brought together in one body. And in that one body. The goal is for there to be peace, harmony, unity among people.

He said there's neither bond free. You had slaves in the first century. You had slave owners. Well, how then was it possible to eradicate slavery among people in that day and time because there were millions of slaves in the Roman Empire? Let me tell you what did it. The gospel. And then what about the plight of women? He said there's neither male nor female.

Look, in ancient times, women were looked upon as nothing more than merchandise. And yet the gospel elevated the woman to the role that she rightfully had. And that is the crown of God's creation. Now go back again and look at Romans 10:15 when Paul talked about the gospel of peace. The gospel is what can bring peace to the hearts and lives of people.

That's the only thing that can bring about true, genuine peace. Now there is the possibility for peace. It might be that you're thinking right now, in your heart of hearts, that if there's one thing you lack in life, it's real peace. You've tried materialism in your mind. You thought, well, you know, if I just had a little bit more money, then surely I'd have some peace.

I'd be, you know, I'd be set for life. But that didn't bring it about. And then there are those that have this idea, you know, if I could have a relationship with particular individual, if I could somehow find the person of my dreams, then I'd have peace. But then no peace. I mean, look, you can look in a lot of places, but I can tell you right now the only place that you're going to find genuine, lasting peace is in the Lord.

Now, one of the things that I learned from Scripture is that peace can provide for me a life that is unlike what people enjoy in the world. Now, again, Jesus said in John 16:33, these things are spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. Back in John 14, Jesus said, peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, not as the world gives.

How many people they think that they're on to something and they have peace in the world, and then something happens and they realize, you know what? I really don't have peace. So there is the possibility for peace in your life. One of the blessings of being a child of God is to be the fact that we are to be peacemakers.

Jesus said, and Matthew five in verse nine, blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. God the father was the initiator, the facilitator of peace between Adam and Eve and himself. Well, if we are to be Christ like godlike, wouldn't it stand to reason that we would be people who promote peace, that realize there is a lost and dying world out here, and there are people who are hurting and they're suffering and they go to not.

They go to bed at night and their lives are filled with guilt. They don't have peace. I talk to a individual just a few days ago who talked about suffering a very scary health situation, nearly died. And he said that based upon what physicians had told him, that he could have died, probably should have died, but he didn't.

They said, you know what? You could have died in your sleep. And this fellow told me, he said, I was afraid to go to sleep at night. Well, there are people like that. But you know what? This brother, this fellow was baptized into Christ, became a brother in Christ. And when he left the building that day, after having been baptized, he said, all of the weight and all the stress and all the guilt, he says, gone.

Now that's what the gospel will do for you. We live in a day and time when there sadly, a lot of lot of hatred, a lot of prejudice, a lot of enmity. When we look at the crime, the murder, the problems that we face in this world. Did you know that if we will just take the Bible and we'll follow the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can have peace and listen not just in our own lives, but if we will promote peace in a lost and dying world.

When people obey the gospel, they'll lay aside their hatred. Matter of fact, in Ephesians chapter four, Paul talked about laying aside bitterness and wrath and anger and loud quarreling and malice with all evil speaking. And he instructed those Christians in the long ago to be kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us.

I'm going to close out by asking you a question that I think is a question that needs to be asked. Do you have genuine peace in your life? Do you have the peace that passes all understanding, the kind of peace that Paul was talking about? If not, I want to encourage you to turn your life over to the Prince of Peace, because the Prince of Peace can give you peace.

If you'll obey the gospel of Christ, if you'll put your faith and trust in Jesus. Repent of your sins, confess his name, be baptized into Christ. God will put you in the church. It's in that sphere that you'll enjoy peace with God, and you'll enjoy the peace that passes all understanding. God bless you. Will your anchor hold in the storm zone?

Thank you for joining us today. We hope this lesson has helped you in your study of God's Word. If you would like to take a free Bible correspondence course, then the privacy of your home, please contact us using the information on the screen. We would love to help you find a local congregation of the Lord's Church. Please reach out and we will put you in contact with the church near you.

Hope to see you back here next week. Until then, God bless, not move. Grounded, firm and deep in the Savior's love.