

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Teague Bible Church

Isaiah 9:1-7 / 26:3-4 / 53:5

The word "PEACE" means to most the simple condition of not being at war and getting along to the most basic degree.

Ex. Nation to nation, even if seething anger between them.

In Isaiah (the book with the most prophecies of the Messiah to come, where the first and second coming of Christ are rolled into one) we see something *more than* cessation of hostilities.

Jerusalem = city of "peace"

SHALOM = peace/ root of Hebrew == "familiar"

EIRENE = greek "Unity"

A new relationship with God were we are "familiar" with God (I Cor. 2) and have "unity" with God as Adam had before the fall, yet more than what Adam had: *redemption*.

Even some Christians feel that God may have forgiven them and that they are on their way to heaven, but God is simply "tolerating them" at best.

In Paul's introduction to his books of N.T. (Ex. Rom.1:7) "Grace and peace" Cannot have the "peace" of God before you have the "Grace" of God in your life.

SHARE: **What are some of the substitutes for peace? (To try to relax, recreation, create a set of perfect-looking circumstances, *dream about* a set of perfect circumstances.)

Real peace, of the kind God can give, must work in any circumstance.

John 14: 27 " Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you ; not as the world gives, do I give to you, let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

SHARE: **Is it possible for a Christian, who has this peace available to him, not to be enjoying it?

Share a time when you did not live in it even though you were a believer.

Text: ROMANS 5:1-2 (did not cover this, this time, but will next week on Christmas day)

Lk. 2:8-14 (from K.J.V.) (main text this week)

K.J.V. “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.” (two problems when reading this from K.J.V., we will discuss this later)

Ex. Jewish Rabbi in Olympia, I ask, “why do you not believe Jesus is Messiah?” “HE DID NOT BRING PEACE” (ie. National restoration of Jews and world peace with no war, “ lion lay down with the lamb”, things from second coming)

The comings of Christ are clearly in two parts. First the citizens who are to be a part of this kingdom must be transformed to live in the kingdom.(The most minor part of heaven is the geography and surroundings John 17:1-3) Jesus came to bring peace to this war between God and men caused by sin but it must be received personally and individually before the consummation of the ages, (a time when it will be too late to switch sides.) God’s work is to enter into this world as one of us and conduct a “behind enemy lines work” to persuade the enemy combatants to change allegiance before the Lord of Lords comes over the hill to whip out everything unsaved, every body that refused to be redemned.

Adam had peace but chose war, we have war but can choose peace; Jesus is called the “second Adam” the one who can undo this damage.

Ex. Even Christian songs misunderstand about this peace and move it away to the future

P. 196 (“ PRAISE, Our Song And Hymns) (vs.1,3,4) “the wrong shall fail”(future tense)

Lk. 2:8-14 in GREEK , and from N.A.S (the two problems with K.J.V., referred to earlier)

Problem 1: “peace” is present tense(Not something waiting out in the future)

Problem 2: Possessive Genitive in Gk. “peace” only to a particular group “his men” en anthropois eudokias

What about Lk. 2:25-35 Simeon?

What about Mt. 10: 34-37 ? When you change sides you are considered a traitor. Not all will be peaceful for you from the outside, but inside you will be at peace. Not because you just know information about the future, in the fullness of the Kingdom, that there will be peace, but rather real supernatural power in you **now** because the Holy Spirit dwells in you.

John 14:27 read again

Read P. 350 song book (vs, 2, 4)

Example of how critically important this is? :::::

Teens say : They don't want just a life of rules and responsibilities, they know it is coming, and everybody must pull their load , " but what does all that turn you into? Do you become disturbed, angry, rushed, hopeless, everything a "have- to" with no seeming purpose? Will I become what mom and dad have become? I know what I will do, I will escape in some way since adulthood it just one problem after another!" **THEY NEED TO SEE THAT THE CORE OF YOUR LIFE IS LIVING WITHIN THE REAL PEACE OF GOD , AS A PRESENT- TENSE- REALITY . THIS IS THE GREATEST GIFT YOU CAN GIVE THEM THIS CHRISTMAS.**