

Advent/ peace

Relationship with Jesus Brings Peace

[Isa 9:6 ESV] 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

I. Intro

- A. Advent season is upon us
 - 1. Last week we were reminded of Hope, faith with expectation.
 - 2. We have hope in Christ, and have hope because of Christ
- B. This week we realize Peace is possible through the presences of Jesus.
- C. What is peace? Webster
 - 1. a state of tranquility or quiet
 - 2. freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions
 - 3. harmony in personal relations
 - 4. a state or period of mutual concord between governments
 - 5. a pact or agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity
- D. Relationship with Jesus brings peace, but the definitions don't tell the full story.
- E. Peace:
 - 1. Peace in the midst of chaos
 - 2. Peace in the midst of conflict
 - 3. Peace in the midst of war
- F. No matter the circumstances of your life, Peace can be realized and can be powerful
- G. Peace of earth! Only through the savior!

II. Text Isaiah 6:9

- A. For unto us a child is born: Messianic prophecy, physical birth of a child
- B. Unto us a son is given: of the tribe of Judah, of the throne of David
- C. Government shall be upon his shoulder
 - 1. All authority is His
 - 2. There is no government beyond His authority
- D. His name shall be called: Wonderful counselor
 - 1. The best counsel ever given comes from our Lord
 - 2. We have a wonderful counselor available to us in Christ
- E. Mighty God
 - 1. This child to be born is God who became flesh
 - 2. He did not lose His deity, But took on humanity
- F. Prince of Peace
 - 1. Though opposition to Christ may look like war, He brings peace to the believer
 - 2. The opposition comes from those lacking peace
 - 3. Peace is achievable in Christ alone, because:
 - a) We are looking to honor Him and serve Him
 - b) Selfishness is set aside
 - c) Unity in mission provides peace in the actions of the mission

III. Point

- A. We wait for peace, with peace
 - 1. Simeon waited...
 - 2. [Luk 2:25-32 ESV] 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and

blessed God and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

3. When Christ is your Hope, peace is your present
4. When serving self is your practice, peace is not possible
5. There are counterfeits to peace:
 - a) A cease fire is not peace
 - (1) I'm thankful for a cease fire in war, which may allow for peace to come, but it is not peace.
 - (2) The Korean Peninsula is not in a state of peace, but is a state of cease fire: July 27, 1953 is still in place today, but we are a long way from peace.
 - b) Winning an argument is not peace
 - (1) Yelling louder than another person may make them stop arguing, but it does not bring peace
 - (2) Applying to logic and reason in an emotional disagreement does not bring peace
 - c) Silence is not peace:
 - (1) this is the most difficult of counterfeits because peace is never worked out
 - (2) Silence is still a lack of peace if Jesus is not at work in the silence
 - d) Ignoring the problem is not peace
 - (1) Pretending something is not a problem causes further problems
 - (2) There is no peace in ignorance
- B. We are changed by peace, with presence
 1. The presence of Christ changes us at the heart, the core of the matter
 2. Christ changes us by His presence and we can have peace.
 3. [2Co 5:16-21 ESV] 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
 4. This is the peace of Christ!
 5. We choose Peace as followers of Christ
 6. We know peace with Christ is the first step in peace with man
 7. We must have relationship to have peace.
 8. James writes about this as he corrects the church:
 - a) [Jas 4:1-4 ESV] 1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
 - b) Peace MUST COME from RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS
 9. When you have peace with Christ you will be at odds with the world:
 - a) [Mat 10:34-39 ESV] 34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his

own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

- b) Without Christ, you can't know peace, so those that have Christ will be indirect conflict with the world.
- IV. Close
- A. You can have peace
 - B. You can have peace in the midst of conflict, chaos, and difficult
 - C. If you have Jesus