

Meeker Christian Church
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Peace Be With You
5/25/25

As the call for Christians to join the Lord in the air draws near, the definition of “peace” is becoming evermore confusing and disheartening to try and understand! It is impossible to find anything in the word peace that could justify the movement in Colorado that has told a Christian Camp that their facilities must open sleeping quarters, bathrooms and showers, equally at all times to both genders. Does the word peace mean we submit because authorities are requiring it. The answer is no. That is a reason to consolidate our own thinking, and gain insight and understanding to the words of Jesus in Matthew 10:34 *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

In the greater context of Bible revelation, you will find Jesus speaking of His intolerance to every vestige of sin within the population of humans from which He came to earth to rescue. Every vestige of sin that separates human beings from the sacred Holiness for which they were created. So let’s find out some things scripture records for our enlightenment as persecution increases in our society.

A definition for peace for a Christian is the life that results from living in obedience to God’s Holy Word the Bible. The reality is that even though we pray for “thy will be done” which is peace, every time we recite the Model Prayer, peace on earth will not be totally fulfilled in this present earthly condition, but it is surely part of the assurance of salvation for eternity for Christian practitioners.

For example, the dwellers on this continent have survived over 500 years because it was founded and prospered under the peace of God. I boldly proclaim that by the authority of the word: Leviticus 26:6 *I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land.*

Our nation has survived and thrived because peace is the object of righteousness and is made manifest by the actions and attitudes of God seekers. The peace we have experienced is a gift from God for seeking righteousness - Isaiah 45:7 *I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.’*

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, neither let it be afraid.*

Obedience before the Singular Sovereign Holy God permits the presence of peace that indicates His blessing on man’s obedience. Isaiah 32:17 *The work of righteousness*

will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

The United States is a microcosm of the world populations and countries. Or perhaps more correctly stated is that we and all nations are a microcosm of the Jewish nation and God's grace, mercy, love and judgment upon them. We are by His divine purpose together in this world and the vigilant persons are aware of God's creation, expectation, judgment, and impending reward. Understanding the word peace is part of it.

Various forms of our word peace are found 429 times in the King James Version of the Bible. There are different types of peace, including false peace, inner peace, peace with God, and peace with man.

In the Old Testament if people had only chosen to follow the law summarized in the 10 commandments "peace" would have prevailed perfectly on earth and there would have been no reason for the crucifixion and resurrection, or a new covenant!

You remember the story of the Resurrected Jesus as He appeared to the two men on the Road to Emmaus and spoke with them and then disappeared from their sight. We pick up the story in Luke 24:33-44. *33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. 36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." 37 But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." 40 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" 42 So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. 43 And He took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.*

Verse 36 Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you.

Was that simply a traditional greeting or was it a particular blessing for them? At first reading it sounds like a traditional greeting as we often do with the greeting "Hi how are you?" When we hear that greeting, we do not really expect an exhaustive list of physical, mental, social, political, spiritual problems of which one is dealing ...

But with Jesus it was more than a greeting. With Jesus it was much more for this reason - Matthew 4:4 *But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'* "

Every word from the mouth of Jesus is a word from the mind of God.

Every word from the mouth of Jesus reveals more of His eternal purpose.

Every word from the scripture about Jesus: 2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

Every word from the mouth of God is for us to hear, believe, and apply in our lives as if those words contain our ticket to heaven.

"Peace be with you." Those words had meaning for the first century and they have exactly the same meaning for us today: The sincere desire of Jesus was that His people live in peace and unity. Their refusal prompted by satan resulted in untold suffering, destruction and delusion, and continues rampantly today. Matthew 10:34 *Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*

In the Old Testament, the primary Hebrew word for "peace" is shalom, and it refers to relationships between people and God.

In the New Testament, the primary Greek word for "peace" is eirene, and it refers to rest and tranquility and is extended to right relationships between people and their God. A key focus of peace in the New Testament is the advent of Jesus Christ, as announced by the angels in Luke 2:14 *"Peace on earth . . ."*. Isaiah had predicted the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and He is called the Lord of Peace in 2 Thessalonians 3:16.

It is through Christ's work of justification that we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1), and that peace will keep our hearts and minds secure - Philippians 4:7 *and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

We now understand that our saintly role is to seek peace but never at the cost of compromising God's word. By the way if you are a Christian, by definition you are a saint which is dictionary defined as "relating to, resembling, or befitting a saint: holy. Therefore as a saint, we are to be like Christ. We are opposed to every vestige of sin and we are equipped with a sword. The sword being the contents of the Holy Bible.

As valuable as peace is to the human existence and hope, it is no surprise to find satan purposefully, profusely, and profoundly attacking. That means satan counterfeits, inspires empty promises of peace and is used to manipulate others.

Deceitful men speak words of peace while secretly planning evil (Obadiah 1:7). The Antichrist will confirm a treaty, producing a temporary peace which he will then abruptly shatter as he reveals his true colors (Daniel 9:27). False teachers proclaim peace when God is actually proclaiming judgment (Ezekiel 13:10-16). In Jeremiah's day, the religious leaders dealt only with the symptoms of the national problems, without addressing the sinful root of the crisis. These false prophets declared everything was well between God and Israel: "Peace, peace," they said, when there was no real peace (Jeremiah 6:14).

A one sentence scripture summarizes the crux of the subject: Isaiah 48:22 *"There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked."*

On the other hand the scripture is equally intense in it's encouragement for a Bible believing, faith filled, maturing saint - Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness...*

Colossians 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Romans 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

If you are not at peace, examine your life and choices. If you have never confessed your sins to the Heavenly Father, and publicly made your confession of faith that you believe Jesus to be the son of God and accept him to be your savior. Or if you are a Christian but not a member of this fellowship of believers, then we also invite you to transfer your membership today.