

WITH US

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE, KRYSTLE CHAVEZ

DATE: DECEMBER 22ND, 2024

TODAY'S ADVENT FOCUS: PEACE.

In the search for PEACE—where or to whom shall we look?

THE PRINCE OF PEACE: His Prophecy (See Isaiah 9:2-7)

Is. 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.*

Luke 1:79 *[the Messiah will come to] ...shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the **way of peace**.*"

THE PRINCE OF PEACE: His Arrival (See Luke 2:1-21)

Luke 2:14 *"Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace** among those with whom he is pleased!"*

THE PRINCE OF PEACE: His Definition of Peace

What "type of peace" will be the fruit of Jesus coming to earth?

Matt 10:34 *Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.***

Luke 12:51 *Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? ... but **division**.*

V _____ **Peace** (You & God).

Eph 2:17 *And he came and **preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.***

Col 1:19,20 *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things ... **by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.***

Rom 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Yahweh-Shalom
Jehovah-Shalom
"the LORD is peace"
(Jdg 6:24)

God of Peace,
Lord of Peace,
King of Peace,
*(Judges 6:24; Rom 15:33;
16:20; Phil 4:9; 1 The 5:23;
2 Thess 3:16; Heb 7:2; 13:20)*

Eph 2:14
For [Jesus] himself
is our peace...

Know Jesus...know peace.
No Jesus...no peace.

In our sinful state, we are enemies with God (Romans 5:10). "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are restored to a relationship of peace with God (Romans 5:1). This is the deep, abiding peace between our hearts and our Creator that cannot be taken away (John 10:27–28) and the ultimate fulfillment of Christ's work as "Prince of Peace."

-S. Michael Houdmann;
gotquestions.org article

I _____ *Peace (Your Heart & Mind).*

Gal 5:22-23 *the fruit of the Spirit is...peace...*

Col 3:15 *Let the **peace** of Christ **rule in your hearts...***

Php 4:7 ... **the peace of God**, which transcends all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus.

H _____ *Peace (You & Others).*

Matt 5:9 ...**Peacemakers.**

Rom 12:18 *If possible, so far as it depends on you, **live peaceably** with all.*

John 13:34 —Love **one another...** (See the One Another's Small Group Article)

Rom 14:19 *Let us therefore make every effort to do what **leads to peace...***

Eph 4:3 *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through **the bond of peace.***

Heb 12:14 **Strive for peace** with everyone...

Col 3:15 *And let the **peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts.***
*For as members of one body **you are called to live in peace.***

Isaiah 26:3

*You keep him in **perfect peace** whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.*

THE PRINCE OF PEACE: His Commissioning of Us as **Ambassadors** of "Vertical Peace"

2Co 5:18-20 *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.***

BENEDICTION: 1Thess 5:23; 2 Thess 3:16

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ...may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Shalom

Christ's sacrifice provides more for us than eternal peace; it also allows us to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit, the Helper who promises to guide us (John 16:7, 13). Further, the Holy Spirit will manifest Himself in us by having us live in ways we couldn't possibly live on our own, including filling our lives with love, joy, and peace (Galatians 5:22–23). This love, joy, and peace are all results of the Holy Spirit working in the life of a believer. They are reflections of His presence in us. And, although their deepest, most vital result is to have us live in love, joy, and peace with God, they can't help but to spill over into our relationships with people.

-S. Michael Houdmann;
gotquestions.org article

"The Armor of God & The Sandals of Peace"

... and as shoes for your feet,
having put on the readiness
given by the **gospel of peace.**
Eph 6:15

Hymn: It is Well By Horatio Gates Spafford

When peace like a river
attendeth my way,
When sorrows
Like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
**It is well, it is well
with my soul.**

SONGS

JOY TO THE WORLD
STAR OF THE MORNING
LIGHT OF THE WORLD
O HOLY NIGHT
ALL HAIL KING JESUS

BUDGET

Giving Last Week: \$77,382.86
Weekly Need: \$38,322.00

YTD Giving: \$1,720,881.57
YTD General Need: \$1,916,100.00

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please drop envelopes off in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

JOIN THE VBC FAMILY ROSTER



Altamont Expansion Fund (12/18): \$201,688.98