

2010ADVENT ALL I WANT FOR CHRISMAS IS... PEACE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Christmas is a time of surprises,
A time of hope, peace, joy, and love.
So I thought it would be fun to take a little quiz about Christmas story.
You keep track of your answer on your fingers of how many you got right.

1. Joseph was born in what town?
A. Jerusalem **B. Bethlehem** C. Nazareth D. Green Bay
2. What did the innkeeper tell Mary and Joseph?
A. "There is no room in the inn"
B. "I have a stable you can use"
C. None of the above
D. Both of the above
3. How did Joseph and Mary get to Bethlehem?
A. Riding a Colt
B. Mary rode a donkey and Joseph walked
C. Wagon
D. Don't know
4. The wise men met Jesus in a:
A. Manger B. Castle C. Stable **D. House**
5. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
A. Three B. A multitude C. A heavenly host **D. One**

It's not easy keeping all the facts straight about the Christmas story
and it's not easy keeping the facts straight about the peace of Christmas.
We live in a world that is changing so fast we can't remember
Who are friends and who are enemies.

Take the Wife, just getting who said to her husband:
"I've been to karate class, so dinner will be late.
Do you want to make something of it?"

Does Christmas really bring hope and peace, joy and forgiveness?
According to most studies,
Advent is a season of stress and distress,
of sadness not gladness.

Actually, One man said, my mother-in-law and I have a lot in common. We both wish my wife had married someone else."

Mental Health America did a survey to find out
what anxieties people have this time of year.
The results showed that failing finances,
missing a lost loved one and having too much to do were the top stressors.

Dateline NBC conducted a poll and found that 41% of us are maxed out this month, rating it right up there with asking the boss for a raise or going to the dentist.

On Thanksgiving day Toys are Us opened at 10:00 at night.
There was a line so long it went for over 2 blocks outside
And the wind-chill was below zero.
People were standing in line to make some peace with their kids at Christmas.

Last week we began our advent season with hope.
Today we lit the candle of peace.
The word “peace” appears over 400 times in Scripture.
In the Old Testament, “peace” is the word shalom,
and it is a state of wholeness and harmony that is
intended to resonate in all relationships.

Luke’s Gospel open with one angel speaking to the shepherds..
9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Luke:2:9-10

After the one angel appeared
suddenly an entire army of angelic messengers
filled the sky with an outpouring of adoration and said
They didn’t sing they said:
This was some kind of unison declaration.
A liturgy, or chant that they had been rehearsing for centuries.
13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

The word “suddenly” means that the heavenly host came unexpectedly.
Maybe the day was unexpected,
But the message wasn’t
They had heard Isaiah announce it 740 years before Jesus birth.
Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

What is the peace the angels and Isaiah speaks about?
Peace in today’s world is absence of violence.
Between nations,
Between parents and kids
Between husbands and wives.
Everyone is happy when there is no conflict? Right?
We should be.

Dwight Eisenhower wrote. Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is

spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, and the hopes of its children. (Peace Prayers 1992 p23)

But that's not quite what Isaiah was writing about.
 For the Christian the Saviors coming
 Wasn't going to bring a cessation of war or rumors of war,
 Jesus said we would have that till the end of time.
 But this peace was to be specific.

This would be the Peace of a quiet conscience.

Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. II Corinthians 1:12

This is the peace of a restful mind and heart

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

This is the peace of a surrendered will and obedient heart

The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace. Psalms 29:11

This is the peace of loving fellowship

"Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Job 22:21

That is the peace that Jesus brought,
 But how do we get it, how would it come?
 The angels explained it.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Note that the source of peace is the Savior.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. II Thessalonians 3:16

Note also that unlike other religions of the world this is a peace given at all times.
 Not just at certain celebration or holidays of the years.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. II Thessalonians 3:16

It even gets better.

Note it is also a peace in every way

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. II Thessalonians 3:16

How can this be??

Note the last part of this verse

It can be because it is a living peace.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. II Thessalonians 3:16

This peace is connected to a person.
 It is not a word.
 It is not a song
 It is not an amendment to the constitution.
 It is a living person.

We don't buy it,
 Beg it, borrow it,
 We invite it into our lives.

The Lord be with all of you.

Do you began to see how easy it is to have peace?
 Think about it this way.
 How many of you have been shopping for just that special gift for your child.
 You have searched,
 You have researched.
 You have gone to the malls,
 Studied the internet shopping.

All in an attempt to get something to keep the peace with your child.
 A toy to keep them quiet.
 A toy that will captivate, entertain, invigorate, and keep the peace.
 It's so frustrating
 Because there are so many things out there.
 And because the attention span of the child is so limited.
 They just jump from one thing to another.
 The house suddenly is in disaster.
 With abandoned games and blasters all over the place

But the best way to do it is to
 invite the grandfather over,
 let him become the gift.

At least that how it works at our house.
 Grandfathers love to play with their grandkids.
 Is like having a living toy around.
 My grandkids think I'm their sleep over, or play datefriend.

Believe me when I'm there,
 Their mother can relax and enjoy life again.

We can try to buy peace,
 We can try all other kinds of religions with their
 Rituals and rites.
 Their dead saviors and
 Their penance and indulgences.
 Their crystals and self help tapes and mantras

1 Corinthians 14:43 "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."

Or we can invite Jesus in as the living Lord of our life.

The Prince of peace.

Who is an ever living, ever giving, ever loving Son of God

**Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. II
Thessalonians 3:16**

Jesus was willing to go to the cross for your life and mine.

Remember Isaiah called Jesus the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

He could only do that when he gave his life

To meet the demands of a Just God

And a vicious Satan demanding justice for sins.

No wonder the angels were so amazed and astounded and said:

Luke 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

This peace is like no other.

Because it transform all of our life.

Our heart and soul, mind and body.

And it affects our relationship with others.

You know what?

We’re all broken in some way.

Some of us just hide it more than others.

Friends, Jesus came to bind up the brokenhearted.

One pastor put it this way:

“He whose heart was broken for sinners knows how to heal broken hearts of sinners.”

The word “peace” in the New Testament means

to “join together; to set at one again.”

It has the idea of gluing something back together.

That is why Apostle Paul wrote:

**If it be possible, as far as it depend on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans
12:18**

Because there is a warning surrounding peace.

SLIDE----Are you out of sync with your family?

With your church,

With your spouse, or children?

Reexamine yourself.

**Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
Heb. 12:14**

We are to be people of peace.

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were
called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15**

There it is, the manifesto of Christian living.

And friend, if you do not have peace with God today,

And you feel far away or disconnected.

Perhaps sabotaged by life, or sin, sickness or death,

Then run to Jesus,

Maybe you have Peace with God.

Then make a point to reach out to someone who has gone through a death or a divorce.

Include those who are lonely and separated by War.

Remember the over-whelmed and over worked.

He is the prince of peace.

He understands.

Listen to the voice of the Sky Angel

The voice of a little 13 year old boy.

Called Logan Henderson who called

KFCJ Christian radio station.

From Middletown Nebraska

To share how he found peace.

VIDEO

God understands. He always understands.

Run to him.

No matter how far away you feel

allow the truth of Isaiah to wash over you:

“Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the Lord. “And I will heal them.” Isaiah 57:19