

23-09-05.wpd —Jesus Is the Prince of Peace
peace, emotion, will, body, death Advent, 2nd Coming
Isaiah 9:6

The peace the Christ Child brought touches every aspect of life.

INTRODUCTION:

—**Isaiah 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.*

—"Prince of Peace" - This is the last name predicted in this famous verse from the prophet Isaiah. In certain ways, this name is almost a synopsis of all the others. "Peace" is the epitome of the what meets our human condition in every dimension of need that arose from the Fall. When we went astray, He is the *Wonderful Counselor* sent to lead us like a shepherd back to the **peaceful** fold of God's love. When Satan, sin, and death brought chaos to our lives, the *Mighty God* Incarnate defeated them in a human battle and offers His **victorious peace** to all who follow Him. When our losses bring loneliness and discouragement, He's *Everlasting Father*, comforting us with the peace of knowing that we are part of His eternal Family. For all of these reasons, and more, He is *Prince of Peace*.

HOM.idea. Probably the first area that comes to mind where we need God's peace is in the realm of our emotions....

I. Jesus is *Prince of Peace* for Our Emotions

- A. This Christ Child would bring the peace *that passes understanding*.— Phil 4:7, And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
- B. The *Prince of Peace* is Royalty, not by virtue of His Deity, but by His human victory over the enemies of our "hearts and minds."
 1. One of these is enemies is *discouragement*, and Jesus knew we would experience this, so He told us in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (Discouraged by what this world is throwing at you? Jesus said "*Take your heart in one hand and My hand in the other. I've overcome this world. In My victory you will find peace that passes understanding.*")
 2. Another enemy is *worry*, and Jesus knew we'd do that, too, so He told us in Mat 6:25-33, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life,

what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life. {Or single cubit to his height}? "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

TRANS: There so many other emotional states of heart that are the enemy of peace: *envy, bitterness, anxiety, anger...* the list is long! But that last verse is the answer: "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." He is Lord: let the Prince of Peace rule. He is righteous: let His thinking be your way of living. **The peace the Christ Child brought touches every emotion**, and that brings "*peace that passes understanding*."

II. Jesus is *Prince of Peace* for Our Wills

- A. This Christ Child would bring "peace on earth, goodwill toward men." (That was the angelic announcement, and most translations render it, "peace on earth to men of good will." That's a problem! How do we get to be people with "good" wills, to gain that "peace on earth"?)
- B. There's an OT passage that shows both the lack of peace without a "good will" and how God can remedy that situation— Isa 57:15-21, For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. I will not accuse forever, nor will I always be angry, for then the spirit of man would grow faint before me-- the breath of man that I have created. I was enraged by his sinful greed; I punished him, and hid my face in anger, yet he kept on in his willful ways. I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near," says the LORD. "And I will heal them." But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." (That describes our situation perfectly: we fail to have peace when we fail to have

"good wills." God's remedy is for our wills to get in tune with His, and that only happens when we are "contrite and lowly in spirit.")

TRANS: *Pride* and *peace* don't mix. God wants to give us His peace, but it will cost us our pride. That pride is broken at the foot of the Cross where the *Prince of Peace* died, and where the "heart of the contrite" kneels humbly to confess *sin* and the *need of salvation*. **The peace the Christ Child brought humbles our proud wills,** and that brings "*peace that passes understanding.*"

III. Jesus is *Prince of Peace* for Our Bodies

- A. This Christ Child of the 1st Advent, would bring *the peace of the 2nd Advent*, and this is paralleled in our individual lives. [Birth is so *beautiful, so wonderfully hopeful, so full of promise.* But years come and go in rapid succession, and the body so strong and able, so supple and mobile, so ready for the journey...gets **worn out** by the journey.]
- B. The journey that began at our *advent* (our coming into the world) draws to its end (for Christian believers) as we come to our 2nd advent, our *home-coming*, where whatever our poor bodies have lost, on their way from birth to old age, will be more than restored in *resurrection* [Gravestones say "RIP," based on biblical hope— Rev. 14:13, Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."]
- C. If our bodies themselves could talk, they would say, "*Yes, it's the 2nd Advent that I long to see!*"— Rom 8:22-23, We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. (Our bodies will not be at *peace* until that great Resurrection Day, when the *Prince of Peace* returns.)

CONCLUSION:

—**The peace the Christ Child brought touches every aspect of life—**our *emotions*, our *wills*, our *bodies*—touches and transforms them to conform to His magnificent and eternal reign as the Prince of Peace. All I can say to that is, "*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*"