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” is the last name predicted in this famous verse. It gives a synopsis of all the others. His “Peace” meets the human condition in every dimension of need that came from the Fall:

• When we went astray, He’s the Wonderful Counselor, sent to be the Good Shepherd to lead us back to the peaceful fold of God’s love.

• When Satan, sin and death disrupted our lives, the Mighty God defeated them as a human King, giving us, as believers, His victorious peace.

• When beset by loneliness and despair, He’s the Everlasting Father Who comforts us with the peace of fellowship in His eternal Family.

—For all these reasons, and more, He is the Prince of Peace. HOM.idea.

One huge area of need is in the emotional realm:

I. Jesus is Prince of Peace for Our Emotions

A. The Christ Child came to bring 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. Jesus is a royal “Prince,” not by His divinity, but by His anointed humanity and victory over the enemies of human hearts and minds.

1. One of these enemies is discouragement, which Jesus knew we’d experience. So He said 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.” (Are you 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 Me you are victorious with a peace that passes understanding.”

2. Another enemy is worry. Jesus knew we’d be anxious, so He said in Mat 6:27-29, 31-33, “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? “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.... 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:** Besides despair and worry, there are so many other emotional states that are enemies of peace: envy, bitterness, apathy, anger. It’s a long list! But Jesus has the answer for them all: “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness.” This Prince of Peace is King! We must let Him rule in our hearts. He is holy: we must let His attitude become our way of thinking. The peace brought by the Christ Child brings to our every emotion the peace that passes understanding. Furthermore...

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

A. This Christ Child came to bring “peace on earth, goodwill toward men.” (Some translations render that angelic announcement as “peace on earth to men of good will.” That poses a problem! How do we become people “of good will,” in order to gain that “peace on earth”?)

B. God’s way for obtaining a “good will” is called contrition—Isa 57:15, 18-21. 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 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.” (Without a “good will,” “there is no peace.” Peace comes when our wills are in tune with His will, and that happens only when we become “contrite and lowly in spirit.”)

**TRANS:** Pride and peace don’t mix. Jesus, the Prince of Peace wants us to receive His peace, but it will cost us our pride. With contrite hearts, we must kneel at the foot of the Cross, so He can transform us. Only then can we receive the “peace that passes understanding.” Finally...

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

A. As the Christ Child’s 1st Coming brought us peace, so will His 2nd Coming, and those 2 Advents are paralleled in the believer’s life:

1. **Our personal advent on Earth by physical birth** is so beautiful, so hopeful, so full of promise. But the years rapidly come and go. Our bodies, so strong and able, so supple and mobile, so ready for life’s adventure, get worn out by life’s journey.

2. But those who receive spiritual new birth by repentance and faith this “Prince of Peace,” will also experience a home-coming into “a new heaven and a new earth”—

   a. Whatever our poor bodies have lost—on their way from birth to old age—will be more than restored in bodily resurrection!

b. The “RIP” on tombstones (“rest in peace”) is from our Biblical thinking. The peace brought by the Christ Child touches every aspect of life—our emotions, our wills, our bodies. His peace impacts our entire being. The power of His peace will finally transform our “whole spirit, soul and body.” At this very moment, His peace is working to fit us for His return, let’s continue to say “Happy Birthday” to the Child of Bethlehem... and “Merry Christmas” to one another.

**CONCLUSION:**

The peace brought by the Christ Child touches every aspect of life—our emotions, our wills, our bodies. His peace impacts our entire being. The power of His peace will finally transform our “whole spirit, soul and body.” At this very moment, His peace is working to fit us for Heaven, where we will join Him in His magnificent and eternal reign as the Prince of Peace. That should make us all want to pray the Bible’s last recorded prayer: “Even so, come, Lord Jesus.” But until that great Day of His return, let’s continue to say “Happy Birthday” to the Child of Bethlehem... and “Merry Christmas” to one another.