

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

The peace brought by the Christ Child 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*” 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 2nd advent, 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 hope in 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.”
- B. If our bodies could talk, they’d say, “Yes, it’s the 2nd Advent I long to see!” Why is that?— Rom 8:22-23a. 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 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.