



Christmas Peace
Selected Scripture
December 18, 2016

Introduction:

Oswald Chambers:

“Whenever you obey God, His seal is always that of peace, the witness of a profound peace, which is not natural, but the peace of Jesus. Whenever peace does not come, tarry until it does or find out the reason why it does not. If you are acting on an impulse, or from a sense of the heroic, the peace of Jesus will not be manifested to you; there is no simplicity or confidence in God, because the spirit of peace is born of the Holy Ghost, not of your decisions.”

The starting point for peace is understanding the cause:

1. **Ungodly selfishness.**

Proverbs 13:10 (NKJV) By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.

2. **Unfair expectations.**

James 4:1 (NKJV) Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

Rick Warren:

“The reality is that there will never be peace in the world until there’s peace within nations. And there will never be peace in our nation until there’s peace in our communities. There won’t be peace in our communities until there’s peace in our families. And there won’t be peace in our families until there’s peace in our individual lives. That won’t happen until the Prince of Peace reigns in our hearts.”

Jesus came at Christmas to bring to us three kinds of peace:

- I. **Peace with God.**

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Randy Alcorn:

“Having counseled many people, I’ve noticed that there is a built-in longing inside each of us to be at peace with our physical fathers. This desire for connection is hardwired into us. Even if your father has been apathetic toward you, abandoned you, or even abused you, something feels missing if that relationship is disconnected. We want it to be different, and we long to be reconciled. People do all kinds of stupid things in an attempt to earn the approval of a parent. It’s a deep need we all have.”

Gary Smalley:

“All of us have a deep need to be reconciled and reconnected to our Creator, our heavenly Father. People often tell me they sense incompleteness in their lives, but they don’t know what they’re looking for. ‘Something is missing,’ they say, or, ‘There’s got to be more to life than just this!’ So they try all kinds of remedies—activities, achievements, drugs, and affairs—in an attempt to plug the holes in their hearts. What they need is to be reconciled to God. Nothing else can compensate for a broken relationship with God except a Spirit filled relationship.”

II. Peace of God.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in You.

What robs us from peace?

- 1. Uncontrollable circumstances.**
- 2. Unchangeable people.**
- 3. Unexplainable problems.**

III. Peace with Others.

Matthew 5:9 (NKJV) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Every disciple has two major ministries:

- 1. The ministry of restoration.**

Galatians 6:1 (NKJV) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

- 2. The ministry of reconciliation.**

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NKJV) Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.