

06-29-14

Scripture: Matthew 5:9

Title: God's Peace

Peace

Peace is a big deal

Hear much talk about it

Remember as a kid, Christmas peace

During Vietnam war...

Christmas we sing about peace on earth

Where is it? Do we have it? Have we found it?

Can it be found? Where can it be found?

*The United Nations came into being in 1945 after World War II – their motto is – To have succeeding generations be free from the scourge of war
Since that time there hasn't been a single day of peace
The New York Times reported in 1968 that there had been fourteen thousand five hundred and fifty-three wars that they could count since 36 B.C.
Since 1945 the count has continued.
From 1945 to the mid-sixties there were between fifty and seventy wars, 164 internationally significant outbreaks of violence involving some 82 nations.
And they continue today*

There's no personal peace

No mental peace, no social peace

Anguish strikes at the hearts of most people

Two reasons really – satan and people

The opposition of satan

The disobedience of people

God wants peace

People and satan are at war with Him

Over 360 references in OT and NT combined

Jesus is called Prince of Peace

God is referred to as the God of Peace

We don't see peace in this world

Why not? What happened?

Blessing, happiness is promised to those who are making God's peace in this world

These people are not politicians or statesmen

Not diplomats or arbitrators

Not kings or presidents or Nobel Peace prize winners

God is calling us to restore and to experience s. lost since the fall

The peace that was lost at the fall...has been made available to us again

Real peace is difficult to find

We don't have peace b/c we don't have peace in our hearts

Junior High choir – director played a guitar once a week...much new music at the time...one song...
They're rioting in Africa, they're starving in Spain.
There's hurricanes in Florida,
and Texas needs rain.
The whole world is festering with unhappy souls.
The French hate the Germans,
the Germans hate the Poles.
Italians hate Yugoslavs,
South Africans hate the Dutch.
And I don't like anybody very much!
Don't know that things have changed much since
junior high...
In the world there is conflict, anything but peace...

So, what is peace?

What is real peace?

What is peace as God sees it?

Is peace just the absence of conflict, or strife?

Is peace just stopping the war...

Peace is the presence of righteousness which causes
right relationships

Peace is righteousness and truth

Shalom – Hebrew word for peace – is a wish not for
the absence of war or conflict – it is a desire for all the
righteousness that God can give

Shalom is wishing God's highest good for you

Peace is not a matter of stopping war

Peace is a matter of replacing it w/ God's
righteousness

Peace is when the truth is known

Peace is when the issue is settled

Peace is not the absence of something – rather it is the
presence of aggressive goodness

The peace of the Bible is not peace at any price

It is not a peace that dodges issues

Rather, true peace conquers the problem

Pain will be involved sometimes

As will struggle and conflict

In the end real peace can only come from God

James 3:17

*17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then
peaceable,...*

Peace cannot be divorced from purity

Where there is real peace there is holiness

There is righteousness

Purity solves the conflict

We all want to avoid needless conflict, strife

In our family, at work...

Avoiding conflict can be avoiding the truth

This is not peace
It's just a truce
A truce just means someone is reloading
A temporary break in hostilities

Peace comes with conflict

Matthew 10:34

Jesus did not come to bring peace at any price
He knew there had to be strife before peace
The conflict has to be resolved

Peacemakers on God's terms bring the truth to bear
So the peace can be real
If the world loves falsehood...
What will happen when we bring truth?

What was the first beatitude?
Poor in spirit – what do we first have to realize?
Our own wretchedness
Some people don't like that
Some people won't admit that
The sword of purity, or righteousness must come first
The Gospel may ruffle feathers; it brings
conviction and conflict
When conflict is resolved by faith in the Lord Jesus
Then, and only then, will real peace come

Peacemaking does not mean abandoning principles
Being a peacemaker does not mean we won't
sometimes offend people

Peacemakers may sometimes cause strife
Peacemakers may sometimes cause
conflict

After the strife, after the conflict
When issues are dealt w/ in truth...
When the truth is dealt w/...
Real peace comes

Truth must be dealt with for there to be real peace
The truth is people have to deal w/ their sin
That is not easy, that causes conflict
Peace can only come when we do this

Real peace involves truth

Real peace only comes when truth reigns
Biblical peacemakers are not always quiet
Sometimes they make waves
They are not compromisers

True peace only comes after the truth
It is not just a truce so there's time to reload
Since peace is righteousness and truth
Sin and lies are what keeps peace from coming

Jeremiah 17:9

Isaiah 48:22

22 "There is no peace for the wicked," says the Lord.

Our hearts are deceitful – they lie

We are wicked and the wicked cannot know peace

We talk about peace, we say we want peace

Until we deal w/ who we are – peace cannot come

James 3:18

James 3:18

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. ESV

James 3:18

18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness. NIV

True peace makers sow righteous fruit

True peacemaking bears righteousness

If you are fighting w/ someone and you separate yourselves – is that peace?

Fighting is always caused by sin

Real peace involves forgiveness,
repentance

We have conflict w/ God – there is a struggle – there is no peace

When we come to Him in repentance – seeking His forgiveness

The barrier of sin is removed
We can finally have peace

Peace comes by sowing righteousness...

God's wisdom is first pure, then peaceable...

True, real peacemakers bring people to righteousness

They bring people to God's standard – the truth

Peace is not found in our circumstances

Peace comes when sin is dealt w/

Remember the Jews were looking for someone to
come in and show the Romans – get them out – set up
the kingdom

Jesus is the Messiah and He's saying

Blessed are the peacemakers...

Jesus is the Prince of Peace

...Consider how much conflict happened around Him

There was always a struggle going on

Same w/ people – preaching the gospel of peace

Many places Jesus went a riot broke out

True peacemakers are willing to say what has to be
said to bring righteousness to bear on the situation

Being a peacemaker is not easy

It is not avoiding issues

Peace with God

1 Corinthians 14:33

33 for God is not a God of confusion but of peace...

God is the author of peace

God is the maker of peace

God is perfect peace

Without God there cannot be peace

Ephesians 2:14

14 For He Himself is our peace,

Not sure if this is true, good illustration 😊...

Read a story about a couple in a divorce hearing and they couldn't resolve the conflict and they were arguing back and forth and they had one little boy about four years old and he was greatly distressed. And he was teary-eyed because he was watching the conflict.

He reached over and took his father's hand and then he reached over and took his mother's hand and with tears in his eyes, he just kept pulling until he pulled the two hands together.

He became peace.

In a way this is what Jesus did for us

He provided the righteousness that allows us to take God's hand – He became our peace

Colossians 1:19-20

*19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made **peace***

*through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say,
whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

The cross made peace

In the midst of the death, the darkness, the
beatings...

The cross provides the righteousness that
alone can bring real peace

*There is a book called the Peace Child by Don
Richardson...*

*He was working w/the Sawi tribe in Irian Jaya (over by
New Guinea)*

*He was trying to teach them about Jesus and could find
no analogy in their culture to explain Him*

The tribe was at war w/ a neighboring tribe

*A man from one tribe, tired of the constant fighting ran
into his hut and picked up his little baby boy, his only
son*

He ran with that baby to the other tribe

With the mom screaming behind him, trying to catch him

He gave that baby to the other tribe

*They had a tradition – as long as that child lived there
would be peace – the Peace Child*

God the Father sent His only Son

He sent Him to earth to live among us

He is our Peace Child

John 16:33

*33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you
may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but
take courage; I have overcome the world."*

Peacemakers

There is a group of people God calls peacemakers
God's agents in the world to make peace
To bring real peace, God's peace

So who are these peace makers?
Super human class of people?
Special specific select group?

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Reconciled is another word for peace maker
The reconciled are the ones called to be
peacemakers
Who are the reconciled?
Those who have been reconciled to God
Believers – those who have repented...
Those who have accepted the Gospel of peace

Peacemakers are those living at peace with God
Who take the Gospel of Peace to those at war with God
So they can find peace with God
Telling others of the hope we have is
peacemaking

*Yesterday at the park several of you shared the gospel
Black...Red...White...Gold...Green...
That was the means of God's peace...
You were sharing w/ people at Pastyfest the truth of the
Gospel – the one thing that can bring peace
How exciting it was to watch...(Mikaela)*

God is not looking for some spiritually elite group
Some super powerful peace keeping/making force

He is looking for those who realize their own wretchedness, who have found peace w/ God and are willing to share that peace with other wretches like themselves

Peacemakers make peace between themselves and God
They walk in the light
And they help others to make peace w/ God

Sons of God

Matthew 5:9

Sons of God...

Matthew 5:44-45

44 "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven;...

At least two words used for children

One refers to tender affection

The one used here refers to honor and dignity

There is honor/dignity being God's child

*For the most part, in case you haven't noticed, my kids don't look like me (lucky them 😊)
Someone else gave them their hair color, their eye color
I have always figured w/ my kids
If I can get them to act like me (the good part)
I would have succeeded as my Dad
Our son Richard, in C. Springs
Often will say – I can hear my Dad saying what I just said – most of the time it does make me happy
Giving our character to our kids...*

God is a God of peace – we do look like Him for we are made in His image

When we repent...

We become His children – He begins to work His character in our lives

Peacemaker refers to our character

How can you tell a son of God?

They are a peacemaker – like their Father...

In our peacemaking we are recognized as God's children
How do we know we are Christians?

We realize we are poor in spirit...

We mourn over sin

We are gentle and meek before God

We hunger and thirst for righteousness

We realize the mercy God has shown us and we show it to others

We are poor in heart

And We are peacemakers

What does it mean to be a son/daughter of God?

Ever think about it?

Part of it is becoming like Him

Having His character formed in us

Conclusion:

We can't just go around wreaking havoc for the sake of the truth and for righteousness

There is wisdom in overlooking a wrong

There are times when it is the noblest of things to cover a multitude of sins.

We don't want to just create strife.

Some people are good at strife, they can just create strife everywhere and it can be done rather piously in the name of virtue.

This is not making peace...

We certainly don't want to sacrifice truth

God's peace is not the product of truth sacrificed
or righteousness compromised

God's peace comes as a result of truth

Knowing the truth about who we are

Sinners living in opposition to God

Knowing the truth about who Jesus is – God in
the flesh who died in our place

Repenting and trusting Jesus as our peace

As our Savior

We find peace

We find real peace

Have you done this?

Are you making peace?

Are you sharing the truth of God's peace?

Benediction:

Psalms 34:12-14

2 Who is the man who desires life

And loves length of days that he may see good?

13 Keep your tongue from evil

And your lips from speaking deceit.

14 Depart from evil and do good;

Seek peace and pursue it.

Sermon outline

06-29-14

Matthew 5:9

P_____

Peace comes with c_____

Real peace involves t_____

Peace with G_____

P_____

S_____ of God