

“Peace in Christ” (topical)

For Your Life in Christ the Second Wednesday Service in Advent,
December 7th, 2011
Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine, CA (LC-MS)
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Introduction: Peace = *eirene*

- A. In Scripture it is the New Testament Greek equivalent to the Old Testament Hebrew word *shalom*.
- B. People easily use the word “peace,” but we often miss its meaning: it means “wholeness, wellness, unity, and salvation.” But it is even more than this, because its context is oneness with God. In other words when you’re right with God and one with God, then you’re healthy, you’re whole, you’re right (in the sense of being well).
- C. Ironically, our culture is fascinated by the “peace” sign which is fundamentally a sign that is *not* right with God. It is the encircled inverted cross with the crossbar arms broken down.
- D. In other words the peace sign expresses its anti-violence message by un-doing the cross, but ***if we un-do the cross of Calvary then we lose our only way of knowing wholeness with God through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ!***
- E. The great embarrassment and tragedy of the “peace sign” is that it uses its symbol to redefine peace by emphasizing the elimination of war on the earth instead of the peace that God gives through the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. This puts forth an enormous confusion about peace.

Part I: What Did Jesus Teach about Peace?

- A. The Lord Jesus Christ taught peace in two different contexts:
 1. He taught that on account of Him, we would have no peace!

Matthew 10:34: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.”

- a. The Lord goes on to teach that divisions among people will occur even within our families. Why? Because

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some follow Christ and others do not. This means a difference in ultimate allegiance and values; completely different worldviews.

- b. Thus our Lord was clear in teaching us what to expect:

John 16:33b: “In the world you will have tribulation.”

2. But our Lord taught of a different peace, a greater peace, and on account of Christ ***we have that greater peace!***

- a. First, He is the One who brings this peace!

Isaiah 9:6 gives Him the prophetic title “Prince of Peace”.

- b. Second, when He was born He brought God’s peace!

The angels praised God saying:

Luke 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

- c. When Simeon saw the baby Jesus, he was so filled with peace that he was ready to die in peace!

Luke 2:29-30: “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation.”

- d. Now “in Jesus Christ” we have the peace of God as well!

Philippians 4:7: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

B. & Conclusion: So now we know what’s really important

1. Our goal is not political peace or even peace in personal relationships by compromising our faith. No!
2. Instead, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)! That means we have been reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus (Romans 5:9-11)! That means God is on your side...that’s right, God! The One who is the source life, the One who can do all things, is the One who comes to give you peace.
3. Behold dear Christian, you are whole, you are well, because your sins are washed away in Jesus, your Peace!