"Spiritual Peace for Today"

In the world today there are all sorts of global crises waiting to happen – some of these erupt (e.g. Israel and Palestine) and others do not. Our world is not a world of peace. That is the summary of *The Kingdoms of This World*!

The Bible uses the words contentment, peace, rest and satisfaction repeatedly, because the Kingdom that the Lord Jesus offers to the human race is a Kingdom of peace. One of the most beautiful titles of Jesus is that He is *The Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6).

PEACE IS ABSENT FROM THE WORLD

Not only is peace missing from the big picture of our planet, but it is missing from the deep recesses of our hearts. People are searching for satisfaction, but it seems so elusive (hard to find).

We must find peace with God (our vertical relationship with God) before there can be peace in our world (our horizontal relationships with each other).

The reason why there is no peace is because of individual human sin. God says that our sin/wickedness has *alienated us* (sent us away, separated us) from God. Over and over in the Bible we are told "*There is no peace, says the LORD, unto the wicked*" (Isaiah 48:22).

PEACE WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SAVIOUR

People talk about "making their peace with God," but actually it is impossible and unnecessary to do this – because the Lord Jesus has already made peace for us! That is why God calls it "my rest" in Hebrews 4:3-5, and He wants it to be our rest too!

Colossians 1:20, "Having made peace through the blood of his cross."

Peace means that the hostility (bad relations) is broken down between 2 enemies. Our sin was what caused God's wrath and anger to be against us – but the death of Jesus Christ has taken down the wall of sin by paying for the sins completely.

PEACE IS ACQUIRED BY THE BELIEVER

Romans 5:1, "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*" To have *peace with* God (Romans 5:1) means that I have recognized and accepted the peace which the Lord Jesus has made for me. Why not trust what the Lord Jesus has done and **rest on Christ's promise!**

PEACE SHOULD BE APPRECIATED BY THE GODLY PERSON

Hebrews 13:5-6, "Be content with such things as you have: for He has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper."

To have *the peace of God* means to live as a Christian just content to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus! It comes through a daily relationship with the Lord Jesus in reading His Word and speaking to Him in prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

PEACE WILL BE PERFECTED IN HEAVEN

The moment a believer (a truly saved Christian) dies, they are taken into the presence of the Lord. And He will be enough for them forever – He will give them everlasting, abundant satisfaction and joy.

Psalm 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

The Kingdom of Peace from the Lord Jesus is a beautiful picture – will you be IN the picture?