

Christ's Mission Was Not Peace

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Christ's Mission Was Peace (Lk. 2:13-14).

Christ's Mission Was Not Peace (Mt. 10:34).

While the Adversary of Almighty God, and mankind, is able to influence affairs on earth, there will be no lasting peace (cf. 1Pet. 5:8; Jn. 8:44). However, one of the reasons Christ offered himself as a sacrifice to cover the sins of mankind, and the fallen host of heaven, (cf. 2Pet. 3:9) was to make the way to lasting peace possible (see study: Peace). Those who repent of living a sinful life can experience peace of mind in the knowledge that this present evil system, under Satan's influence, will soon come to an end,

Grace (forgiveness of sin) to you (those who have repented of sin) and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil age (under Satan's influence), according to the will of our God and Father (Gal. 1:3-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Until Christ removes Satan (cf. Rev. 20:1-3), there will be no lasting peace because mankind will always choose to follow Satan's way of living, which leads to conflict, violence, heartache, and death (cf. Gal. 5:19-21),

Their (mankind's) feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity (sin; cf. 1Jn. 3:4); wasting and destruction are in their paths. ⁸**The way of peace they have not known**, and there is no justice in their ways (because they follow Satan's ways); they have made themselves crooked paths (cf. Mt. 7:13); whoever takes that way shall not know peace (Isa. 59:7-8; cf. Rom. 3:10-18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because Jesus Christ reinforced his Father's law and commandments (cf. Mt. 19:17) and exposed sinful conduct, he was attacked as most of God's servants have been throughout man's history,

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him (Christ). ³²Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from my Father. For which of those works do you stone me?' (Jn. 10:31-32; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Christ pointed out to his disciples that they too would be persecuted for preaching God's truth. Therefore, anyone doing God's work is likely to suffer some form of hardship, and it is in this sense that Christ did not come to bring peace,

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my (Christ's) sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Mt. 5:11-12; cf. Jn. 15:20; Ed. note in

parenthesis).

Christ mentioned that even family members of God's servants will be responsible for acts of violence because they reject God's truth and feel compelled to silence it,

Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against (alienate a man from) his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶And a man's foes will be those of his own household (Mt. 10:34-36; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As mentioned previously, even though God's servants may suffer persecution, they are still able to maintain a peace of mind that transcends the violent actions of those who are under Satan's influence (cf. Eph. 6:12),

And they (Jewish religious leaders) stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep (died) (Ac. 7:59-60; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The normal human reaction, if someone was in the process of being killed, would not be to pray on behalf of one's murderers. Instead, it would be a combination of fear and anger. However, Stephen had the peace of mind that comes with a correct understanding of, and firm belief in, God's plan of salvation. Christ promised this peace of mind to God's obedient servants,

Peace I (Christ) leave with you, my peace I give you; not as the world gives (a false and temporary peace) do I give you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid** (Jn. 14:27; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This is the peace that can be experienced by those who have chosen to trust and obey God (cf. Mt. 4:4),

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest (Almighty God), and on earth peace, good will toward men (**toward men of goodwill**)!' (Lk. 2:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The scripture above is not correctly translated in many versions of the Bible. Once this text is more accurately translated from the original Greek language, it is clear that peace was prophesied to come upon everyone who seeks to follow Almighty God's way of living, as opposed to Satan's. Once this finally occurs, a lasting peace will be experienced throughout God's realm. This was the main reason that Christ instructed God's servants to pray for the kingdom of God to come as soon as possible. In the meantime, mankind and the fallen host will never experience permanent peace,

Your (Almighty God's) kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Once Christ's mission was finished, his sacrifice made the way to peace possible. However, God's plan of salvation is progressive and it has not reached its fulfillment. Therefore, anyone wishing to trust and obey God must expect various forms of

persecution, and this alone proves that peace has not been established yet. These truths are explained in the very scriptures that some people use to claim that God contradicts Himself (see study: Satan's Removal and the Sabbath Rest). In reality, these scriptures reveal that Christ came as the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6), but the world is not ready yet to embrace the way to peace because it hinges on obedience to God's law and commandments, which the god of the this present age rejects (2Cor. 4:4). As human nature is hostile to God's commands (Rom. 8:7), the truth that Christ taught will continually be a source of conflict. This is explained by comparing Luke 2:13-14 with Matthew 10:34. Consequently, no contradiction exists between these scriptures.

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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