

The Gifts of Christmas

The Gift of Peace

Philippians 4:1-9

World Peace – an illusion or a fable?

3,400 years of recorded history – 268 years with no major wars -8%
Since 36 BC – 15,000 wars (before WWII 2.6 per year, after 3 per
108 million killed in wars in 20th century

What is Peace as described in the Word

Not just lack of conflict but rather a sense of well being

Shalom of Old Testament – wish for the best

Irene of New Testament – sense of completeness

Christ offers us the Gift of Peace

He is called the Prince of Peace – **Isaiah 9:6**

God is called the God of Peace seven times in New Testament

We are encouraged to seek peace in **Psalm 34:14** and **1 Peter 3:11**

Christ offers us the gift of His peace in **John 14:27 & 16:33**

The Gift of Peace unwrapped in Philippians 4:1-9

I. Stay True in the face of adversity

1

Written from prison after a life of beating etc.

Based upon: Acceptance into family of God – Brothers and Sisters

Acknowledgement of being loved

Appreciation of our worth in Christ

II. Settle interpersonal conflicts

2-3

Peace is not just a concept – it is a practical life style

Based upon: Acceptance that we all belong to God

Acknowledgment that we have a mission to show God

Appreciation that our future is secure in Christ

(note that we are to live at peace with non-believers as well **Romans 12:1**)

III. Satisfy yourself in the presence of Christ

4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always

Based upon: Acceptance of our life in Christ

Acknowledgement that others are watching us

Appreciation that Christ is coming soon

IV. Seek actively the peace offered

6-7

Turn your worry into truth and rejoice

Based upon: Acceptance of prayer as a part of life

Acknowledgement of all the Lord has given with thanks

Appreciation of God guarding our minds and hearts

V. Saturate your mind with the truth

8-9

Focus your thoughts on all that God provides

Based upon: Acceptance of the goodness of God around us

True, Honorable, Right, Pure, Lovely, Admirable

Acknowledgement of that which draws us to God

That which is excellent and worthy of worship

Appreciation of examples who have walked before us

Then the God of Peace can give you peace in all circumstances

Steps to take 1. Make sure your peace is based upon a right

relationship with Christ

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Colossians 1:20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

2. Seek peace with all around you – especially believers

Romans 12:18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

3. Become an agent of peace in our world

Christ proclaimed such blessed

Matthew 5:9 God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

We follow the path of John the Baptist

Luke 1:79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

Open the Gift of Peace for yourself and share it with your world

Ephesians 6:15 ...put on the readiness to preach the Good News of peace with God.

Christmas Events (all events begin at 4:15 pm)

December 16th – Christmas Carol Service

with Children's play and fellowship

December 23 – The Gift of Love

December 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service