

LASTING PEACE

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

Romans 5:1-11

We daily hear about new developments, products, methods, and even religions that claim to be better, more reliable, and more pleasure giving

Old and established methods and things are rejected for new methods, gadgets and more politically correct doctrines that promise to make life easy, pleasurable, and give a quality of life to those who use them or accept them

Religions have come up with new and more comfortable ways of doing religion

Custom made religions and groups are popping up everywhere. Nations are trying to sign new peace treaties and new commercial agreements, almost without any shame, for they know that the world is becoming more and more divided and fragmented, and tribal discords and fights are everywhere

While everyone wants peace, the world is heading toward anything but peace. As a matter of fact hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing from their countries to find a safe place only to find more misery and many of them die on the way

No matter who is to blame, the fact remains that with all the new technology and religiosity in the world there is no peace in sight

Religions are not doing any better than governments, there are divisions everywhere, everyone wants to go his/her way

The FAMILY is doing even worse. Disrespect, violence and ungodliness have destroyed the family unit. Love has been replaced by doubts and hatred.

No peace among the nations, and no peace in human hearts

Apostle Paul puts it this way: **Romans 3:17**

“The way of peace they do not know.”

As we look around, we find that there is little personal, domestic, social, economic or political peace anywhere. **WHY?**

The Bible says and we can see it ourselves, that we are all born with seeds of suspicion, violence, hatred and destruction within us.

The truth is that the person who has not made **Peace with God** is in constant turmoil and war within and with others

Jesus knowing our nature said that there are going to be wars and conflicts unless our human nature changes through the Spiritual new birth

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We can only experience peace when we have been forgiven by God and have made peace with Him.

Isaiah 57:21 says: *“There is no peace, for the wicked.”*

To those who reject God and ignore His call

Ezekiel 6:14 says:

“When terror comes, they will seek peace, but there will be none.”....

But God knowing our nature and inability to find peace on our own, He sent Jesus who through His death on the cross made peace with God for us – He became our peace.

Colossians 1:20 says:

“Having made peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Let's look at 3 kind of peace in the Bible.

1) **Peace with God** – verse 1

There is a peace that you can have immediately, the **Peace of God**. The greatest warfare that is going on today is not between nations or between man and man, but it is between man and God. WHY?

Because they have rejected Jesus Christ who came to bring peace and salvation, and have chosen to remain in their sinful nature. Verse 10 says that anyone who has not made peace with God is the enemy of God and at war with God.

The Bible makes it very clear in **Romans 3:23** that *“All of us have sinned and have fall short of the glory of God.”*

But now we can have peace with God through Christ

The war between man and God can be over quickly, and the peace treaty signed in the bleed of His Son, Jesus.

2) **The Peace of God** The peace of God is the second peace spoken of in the Bible. Everyone who has made peace with God and knows the Lord Jesus Christ will have the peace of God in his or her daily life and be able to go through any problems and even face death, and still have the peace of God in his or her heart....

Colossians 3:15 says:

“Let the peace of God rule in your heart.”

There are those who say they believe in Jesus, yet they do not have the peace of God in their hearts and they usually blame it on their daily struggles, trials and pressures in life, not realizing that they have not really made Jesus Christ their Lord.

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Is the Peace of God in Your Heart?

With Christ we can be at peace in the midst of the confusion and anxieties of this life. The storms are there, but our hearts are at rest, we have Peace at last!

3) **Future Peace**

The Third peace in the Bible is **Future Peace**. We are not going to have lasting peace until the Prince of Peace comes. And He is coming for sure, soon.

The person who makes peace with God, finally begins to see a purpose, a design in his or her life, life becomes meaningful. Even when life brings tribulations, difficulties and suffering.

Romans 5:3-5

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope; and hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.