

## Sermon Title: Jesus is Our Peace

*In the past 3,500 years, the world has seen less than 300 years of peace.*

*In the last 5 ½ millennia, more than 8,000 peace treaties have been broken, & more than 14,000 wars have been fought with a total of 4 billion casualties.*

*As amazing as this story is, of an unlikely Christmas truce, the war continued! How can you sing Christmas carols, read the Christmas story, exchange gifts on Christmas day together & then go back to shooting each other the day after?*

*“In despair I bowed my head... ‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said, for hate is strong & mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men!”*

Where is the **“good news of great joy for all people”** that Christmas is supposed to usher in? The angels declared, **“Glory to God in the highest, & on earth peace...”** But where is it? The world is still in complete turmoil!

**Is peace simply an illusion?** Is it just wishful thinking? Simply unattainable?

*“Christmas isn’t what brings peace... Christmas is a promise that Jesus will bring peace to all who believe!” “And when the time is right, we will all get to go home!”* Some of those 9 million soldiers... got to experience that peace!

The gospel is not a message that peace is found in the absence of wars, quarrels, disagreements, hostility, & unrest... **For these things will continue...**

If they continued after this amazing Christmas truce in WWI... just as they continued after the amazing arrival of the Son of God into this world... they will continue today as well as we live in this same broken and fallen world!

**But the gospel is a gospel of peace!** Just of a different kind... Found elsewhere... The message of the heavenly host rings true, but not in the ways we may think!

Those WWI soldiers... Mary & Joseph... those Jewish families... **they didn’t experience the world’s peace... but they did have a heavenly peace!**

We are in a battle on 3 fronts... With one another... with ourselves... and even with God... There may be temporary ceasefires... but the war is not over!

True peace isn’t the absence of external conflict or inner turmoil... Peace is a gift... A gift that keeps on giving... **that enables us to persevere in faith, hope & love, even in the midst of the ongoing conflicts & turmoil experienced in this life**

Jesus said **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

**Peace comes from outside ourselves...** it originates with God, and is extended to us through Jesus Christ! This is truly a different kind of peace!

The world’s peace is temporary... dependent upon us... and superficial! God’s peace is eternal... truly a gift... and experienced in real tangible ways!

### - **God’s peace puts us at peace with God!**

Did you know that we aren’t naturally at peace with God? We are at war w/ God... natural enemies... This is a war that we cannot win!

Jesus makes a way of peace for those who believe! **Romans 5:1**  
Receive the gift of peace this Christmas... of God... & with God!

### - **God’s peace puts us at peace with ourselves!**

Often the person that is the hardest to be at peace with is the person in the mirror! Yes, God can forgive us, but we often can’t forgive ourselves!

If God declares us forgiven... made new... a child of His own redeeming... then that is who we are! We can believe it... And live in response to it!

**Give the gift of peace to yourself this Christmas... Let go of the past!**

### - **God’s peace puts us at peace with others!**

Just as we naturally hate God, we also naturally hate our neighbors! How else can one explain all the wars & violence in our history?

**If Jesus is our peace, then in Christ, we can be at peace w/ even our enemies!**

When we have God’s peace, our hearts are not troubled, & we don’t have to live in fear! This is how that WWI soldier walked across “no man’s land!”

In **John 14:27**, Jesus knew what was ahead for himself, and for his disciples, but the supernatural peace of the Father was His, & He offered it to them!

**Jesus doesn’t sugar coat life, but He does offer us a heavenly perspective!**  
**John 16:33 – “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”** Trials will come, but He has overcome our enemy!

**It is only in looking to Christ that we can find true peace!** This is not a gift found under the tree, it’s a gift already offered and opened by so many! Have you received the gift of the peace of God... It can be yours today!

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

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