

What Child is This?
The Prince of Peace
Luke 2:14; John 16:33

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Text Introduction: : Isaiah prophesied some 700 years before the birth of Christ that “a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6) Today we consider Jesus as the “Prince of Peace.” We live in a world looking for peace. Why can we be certain that we can find peace in Jesus? That’s part of the message of Christmas, is it not?

Text: (Luke 2:8-14) Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

(John 16:33) ³³ These things I have spoken to y^ou, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Introduction: I think I am making a pretty good assumption this morning that I am preaching a very similar message to the most often preached message from the pulpit of First Baptist Church. The setting is different, but the message is the same. John 14-16 is the text that Bro. Perry has used for hundreds of funerals and I have used for dozens of funerals. Why have we turned so often to this text? Because in this text, God speaks what we perhaps most need to hear. Peace! Out in the world, you will have tribulation, but Jesus says, “In Me,” you have peace. The question is this. How can we be certain? Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you.” On this Sunday before Christmas, let us remind ourselves of those things that Jesus had just immediately said so that we will understand how “in Him,” we may have peace.

The Place He has Prepared!

The first reason that in Christ is peace is because of the “place that He has prepared.”

John 14:1-6

¹ “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Characteristics of Heaven:

There is much that we ought to say about Heaven, but from this text, notice these characteristics.

- Real Place
- Residence of Jesus
- Reserved for Believers

The Presence He has Promised!

Here’s the second reason we can have peace. We spent a whole lesson a few weeks ago on the Spirit as our Wonderful Counselor. Here are those texts again.

John 14:16-18

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —

¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 16:5-15, especially 13-15

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

**We must remember that the Holy Spirit is the one
Called alongside of us.**

Just as Jesus was God with us, so is the Spirit.

Just as Jesus was a Teacher, so is the Spirit.

The Principle He has Prescribed!

What else did Jesus say? Here is the third reason that in Christ is peace.

John 15:12

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

We will not have peace with God, until we have peace with one another.

Does this Christmas season have you so at odds with someone that you have no peace? The Bible tells us that, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18) Again in Hebrews, the Bible tells us to "pursue peace with all people." (Hebrews 12:14)

The Prayer We might Petition!

Here's the fourth reason. We can pray about everything.

John 16:23-24

²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Jesus was telling the disciples that there would be a time when they would not be so filled with questions, but instead they could take their concerns to Him in prayer. But, there was one qualification. This needs to be our qualification.

The Qualification: in His name.

The Power He has Proven! (John 16:33)

But, still some want to ask, "But how can I know that in Him is peace." It's easy when we consider the resurrection. That's why Jesus, after His resurrection, said, "Peace to you."

So, what are we to do? We are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. (Colossians 3:15) In 1555, Nicholas Ridley was burned at the stake because of his witness for Christ. On the night before Ridley's execution, his brother offered to remain with him in the prison chamber to be of assistance and comfort. Nicholas declined the offer and replied that he meant to go to bed and sleep as quietly as ever he did in his life. Because he knew the peace of God, he could rest in the strength of the everlasting arms of his Lord to meet his need. So can we!