

Ephesians: The Peace of God

by Wayne Goff

The book of ***Ephesians*** could be easily identified as “the epistle on Peace.” Seven times in six chapters the apostle Paul speaks of peace (1:2; 2:14, 15, 17; 4:3; 6:15, 23). Paul begins his letter with a prayer of peace (1:2) and concludes it with a benediction of peace (6:23). He refers to “*the gospel of peace*” (6: 15), and as the apostle to the Gentiles, one could fairly say that he dedicated his life to bringing the peace of God to all men, and to making peace between Jews and Gentiles especially.

Ephesians is likewise viewed as the epistle that depicts **the church as the body of Christ**, fulfilling the eternal scheme of redemption (1:21-22; 3:10-11). This is both true and in harmony with the epistle as a book of peace because when one makes peace with God in obeying the Gospel, the Lord adds that one to the church (Acts 2:38-47) and he is in an intimate fellowship with God (compare 1 John 1:1-3).

Peace, A Gift of God (1:2)

Let it not be forgotten that spiritual peace is a gift of God. As Ephesians 1:2 states “*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*” God is often called the “*God of peace*” (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; 2 Cor. 13: 11; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23). This is an inherent attribute of God along with others such as love, justice, mercy, etc. God desires peace with all beings, heavenly and earthly. It is His nature.

Peace From What?

One might ask from what does God desire *peace* toward man? The Bible is quite plain about it. Man is at enmity with God (war) because of his own sin. God spoke through Isaiah to Judah many years ago and said, “*Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*” (Isaiah 59: 1-2).

Sin is the problem between man and God. You only have to begin at the front of the Bible to see that this is so. God made man upright. God made man in His own image (Gen. 1:26). God made the earth for mankind’s enjoyment and benefit. God made man so that He might have more beings to love and from whom He could receive love. It was all “very good” (Gen. 1:31). But sin marred the fellowship between man and God. Sin stained man’s conscience. Sin violated God’s law. Sin was an affront to the very Person of God in all His radiant wonder. God had to drive man out of the Garden of Eden because of his sin (Gen. 3:24). The remainder of the Bible is God’s dealings with sinful man and how He would try to help him come back if man so desired. The end result is the “*gospel*” (“good news”), Romans 10. Resolving the sin problem between man and God brings peace.

Christ Is The Answer

Peace with God comes through Jesus Christ. Paul wrote in Romans 5:1, “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Not only does Jesus provide peace with God, but He also authors peace between mankind, especially Jews and Gentiles, Eph. 2:14-17. He tore down the wall of separation between the two, He made them to be one in Him (the church), and He reconciled both to God by the cross, destroying the “*enmity*” caused by sin. To preach Jesus Christ is to preach peace on earth, good will toward men.

324603