

The Peace Maker

by Wayne Goff

Many times Jesus spoke to those whom He had helped and said, “*Go in peace.*” It’s an interesting expression, and one deserving of further investigation.

Then you see Paul’s expression in many of his epistles: “**Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 1:7; see also 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; etc.).

The typical Hebrew greeting is “shalom!” which means “peace.” It can also imply such concepts as *completeness, prosperity, and welfare*. It is an idiom for both “hello” and “goodbye.”

The Gospel is God’s message of peace to the world! “*For He Himself is our **peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making **peace**, ... And He came and preached **peace** to you who were afar off and to those who were near*” Eph. 2:14-15, 17. In this context, peace refers to the removal of sin which created a chasm between sinful man and holy God. When that sin was removed by the blood of Jesus Christ, then men have peace with God when that blood is applied to their sins. How wonderful that God is the great Peace Maker! He offers it to those who “*were afar off*” (Gentiles) and to those who “*were near*” (Jews).

Dear reader, have you made **peace** with your God? Have your sins which were red as crimson been made as white as snow? (Isaiah 1:18).

There is a *mutual peace* among brethren which comes from our peace with God. Again in Ephesians 2, Paul wrote that “*the middle wall of separation*” was broken down by Jesus’ death, and that He has created in Himself “*one new man from the two, thus making peace*” (v. 15). There is **peace** -- oneness, unity, harmony, and togetherness -- between Jew and Gentile, bond and free, male and female (Gal. 3:28) in Christ’s body, the church. The apostle John later emphasizes the fact that those who love God love their brethren also (1 John 3:10-11, 14, 16). “*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God*” (1 Jn. 4:7).

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