

# Peace

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by Wayne Goff

In preparing for a lesson, "Perfect Peace," I revisited the New Testament verses with this word in it. One will discover that there is (1) peace with God, and (2) peace among men. Several times the two ideas are connected, thus admonishing Christians to be at peace with one another **because** they have received the saving peace of God through the Gospel. Sometimes the word is used as a simple greeting. Let me share in this brief article some special passages that have much to say about peace. I hope you will read and meditate on them as I did.

## Peace With God

At Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem we read: "*saying: 'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!***" (Luke 19:38).

*"For He Himself is our **peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,"* (Ephesians 2:14).

To the apostles 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 heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

Of willful sinners God has declared "*and **the way of peace** they have not known*" (Romans 3:17).

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,"* (Romans 5:1).

*"For to be carnally minded is death, **but to be spiritually minded is life and peace**"* (Romans 8:6).

## God Of Peace

*"For God is not the author of confusion but of **peace**, as in all the churches of the saints"* (1 Corinthians 14:33).

*"Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and **the God of love and peace** will be with you"* (2 Corinthians 13:11).

## Peace With God And Men

Christians who **practice** the true faith display the fruit of the Spirit, and thus have peace with God and men: "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*" (Galatians 5:22).

*"And as many as walk according to this rule, **peace** and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God"* (Galatians 6:16). God blesses those who live in spiritual peace.

Christians are commanded to work diligently for peace with their brethren: "*endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in **the bond of peace***" (Eph. 4:3).

*"Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God"* (Matthew 5:9).

## Peace With Men

*"And to esteem them (elders, **WG**) very highly in love for their work's sake. **Be at peace among yourselves**"* (1 Thessalonians 5:13).

*"Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in **peace** by those who make peace"* (James 3:18).

*"But I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. **Peace to you**. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name"* (3 John 14).

Even the passages which speak primarily of peace among men, there is the heavenly overtones which suggest that this can only be done when one is at peace with God himself.

The great tragedy in all this is that so very often brethren in Christ have been at odds with one another and have not diligently pursued the path of peace. You see it in the New Testament churches, and you see it today. **Seek true peace!**

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