

The Peace and Justice You Long For

Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:2-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 13, 2020

How do we create peace in our world?

How do I find peace for myself?

The answer to both of these questions is found in Jesus. There will never be peace in this world until more people have peace for themselves with God – through His Son – Jesus Christ.

I. Real Peace is Never Found in the Absence of Anything But in the Presence of Someone – Jesus

Peace does not come from the absence of anything like masks, mandates, political unrest, or a worldwide pandemic. Real peace is the presence of Jesus and an awareness of Jesus in the midst of all these very same things.

2020 didn't cause or create anything in us. It simply exposed things about us that were always true; we just didn't know it as much as we do now. This year has been filled with terrifying moments that have been clarifying moments about what's really going on with each of us on a heart level.

Until there's enough pressure, heat, or adverse circumstances bearing down on us, nobody really knows who we are, including ourselves.

Where have you been looking for peace? Have you been guilty of thinking you'll find it when some of these scary things end or change?

Real peace is never found in the absence of anything, but in the presence of Jesus in the very midst of what you're going through.

[Read John 14:18-20; 25-27]

II. Real Peace is Never Found by Avoiding Reality But by Clarifying Eternity

The Bible is not a sedative that blunts or blocks our awareness of reality. When you read the Bible, you'll see there's no attempt to airbrush the gritty, painful reality of this fallen, broken world.

The Bible seeks to reframe our reality in light of eternity and a sovereign God who is in control of all of it – for His glory and our good.

“...God used that Scripture in Revelation 5 to shatter the ice and it began to fall off of me piece by piece. I cried the rest of the morning but it wasn't because of fear of cancer anymore or because I was questioning God. I was overcome with gratitude that I had been rescued from sin, and death, and hell, and could praise God once again for helping me see through this Scripture that He was good and that He was everything He had ever promised. Oh, praise Him! There are still days of struggle – as the reality of my situation has not changed. I'm still in pain, still struggling to raise my children, and still going through testing to find out if I have cancer or some other disease. But now, there is a joy and peace in my heart because I am so blessed and grateful for my salvation and I am able to rejoice that God is so loving.”

~ Grace Fellowship Attendee

What happened to this young woman had nothing to do with ignoring the present moment, but everything to do with reframing it against eternity and what matters most.

The Bible—and Revelation in particular—pulls back the curtain of eternity and gives us a glimpse of glory that changes our present messy story.

[Read Revelation 5:6-13]

III. Real Peace is Never Produced by Us But Had to Be Purchased for Us

We'll need someone outside of this world to solve the biggest problems we face inside of it. We have a Shalom-shaped hole in our hearts that technology and human relationships can never fill, no matter how much we throw in there or how long we keep trying to fill it.

Jesus was born, He lived, He died, and rose again to purchase peace for us that we could never get on our own! His death on the cross purchased our peace with God and makes it possible for us to have peace with anyone else.

[Read Isaiah 53:3-6]

God gave us the Bible not just for information, but for transformation...and reorienting our perspective by reframing everything we're going through in light of eternity.