

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Way Of Peace

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If you are like most today, you are running here and making appointments there, living life with a frantic pace. Oh, if we could just stop our bodies from continual motion, while ridding our minds of all the clutter, and enjoy a moment of restful peace. It is not often today when such peace is enjoyed, and even more rare, in this goal oriented world, is such “down” time possible.

Therefore, the thought of peace should be a welcomed diversion for our mind. Upon examination of the peace revealed in Scripture, we see that it is not paired with a totally relaxed body and an inactive mind. It is a conscious journey. We find it by actively walking the way of peace.

The spiritual journey begins by knowing God and having peace with Him. Paul writes, “*Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace have they not known: there is not fear of God before their eyes*” (Romans 3:16-18). Knowing God and following his way of righteousness is essential in the way of peace.

The way of peace with God is also only found in Jesus Christ. The one gospel message to all mankind : Jew and Gentile, provides peaceful reconciliation with God. “*The word which He sent unto the children of Israel, preaching good tidings of peace by Jesus Christ*” (Acts 10:36). Receiving forgiveness of sins by obeying the Gospel, we enjoy a clean conscience, cleansed by the blood of Christ in baptism (*Hebrews 9:14, I Peter 3:21*). A cleansed conscience through knowing and obeying the Lord, gives us spiritual peace. Jesus is our peace, who brings all of mankind together in peace before God (*Ephesians 2:14, 17*).

Once we enter the way of peace with God through Christ, we cannot grow lax in our walk. We must continually consider others. Because the kingdom of Christ is “*righteousness, joy and peace*” (Romans 14:17), we cannot allow our actions to cause others to violate their own conscience and forfeit their joy and peace before God. If our action, even if we believe we are free to do such, causes one to do that which is in doubt, then we cease to walk in love. Instead, we should be will-

ing to forgo our liberties in such a context and “*follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we many edify one another*” (Romans 14:19).

As we consider our way before God with others, we must strive to do what we can to have peace with others, while never compromising God’s revealed truth. Paul exhorts Christians, “*If it be possible, as much as is in you, be at peace with all men*” (Romans 12:18). Jesus reminds us sometimes peace with man will not be possible when such a course will compromise the truth of God (*Matthew 10:34-37*).

Putting God first, we do not become anxious for life’s necessities, for we know He will provide (*Matthew 6:33*). We do not fear death, but can face it with a mind absent from fear, knowing the crucified and resurrected Christ. (*Hebrews 2:13-15*). The spiritual way of peace is not “down time”, but it does refresh the inner man so we can keep the fast-paced outer man in check and give us a moment of joy and peace.