

## PEACE FROM THE PRINCE

John 14: 27; 16:33

Almost everyone desires peace in this troublous world. Men dread most whatever threatens their peace and security. People are willing to pay any price to enjoy peace and security. Living in peace, peaceful co-existence among citizens and in relationship with their neighbours is the primary responsibility of Government. A leader or King would go to any length to ensure that peace reigns in his domain. He would declare and fight war if and when necessary to ensure that his subjects are safe and live in peace. Jesus as a prince ruling over His kingdom and having sovereign authority over all people, things, situations and circumstances in the world loves to do the same for His people and citizens in God's kingdom.

The presence of Christ with the disciples implies abiding peace. According to our text, as He was about to leave them and physically leave the earth, He probably felt the worries and anxiety creeping upon them at the thought of His departure from them. Hence, He needed to reassure them. He showed them the possibility of His continuous presence with them and ministry among them through the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). There must by necessity be a divine-human contact and connection for man to possess and enjoy lasting peace on earth. This is the missing link in man's frustrated efforts since the world began to possess and enjoy enduring peace. Real peace, lasting peace, enduring peace could only be attained when the prince of peace is accorded His rightful place in man's heart, home, activities in the world.

United Nations as a world's body whose leading goal is to promote and secure world peace came into being 77 years ago. Can we say the world is a more peaceful place today than it was 60 years ago? The answer is No. Men can sign pact, give money, organize soldiers, deploy peace keepers, buy weapons but only God can change men's heart. Let it be on record therefore today that Jesus' reign and government by converted men hold the key to world's peace and order. This reign must first begin in men's heart. When the grace of Christ conquers the heart, he has conquered all. Wherever the trouble is today-in your heart, home, work, office, programme, your plans, invite Jesus into it and everything will change in Jesus name!

Three points to consider:

1. Giver of Peace
2. Gift of Peace
3. Gains of the Peace from the Prince

### 1. Giver of peace

John 14:27; Isaiah 53:5; 9:6; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 4:35-39; Isaiah 65:17-25

Jesus described himself in our text as the giver of peculiar, special, enduring and permanent peace. Isaiah described the chaos on earth as a result of transgression before the coming of Christ (Isaiah 24:1-13). The same is true of homes, life, business, Christians, Churches or work, situations where Christ is not allowed to reign. Christ is the giver of peace. His birth promises individual, family, national and universal peace (Luke 2:7-14). When He rides in our ship, He brings His authority to bare on every storm and wave of life or circumstances that may threaten to drown us and calms them. One day he is coming to reign on earth and it will be a reign of peace. Are you ready for His coming? Are you ready to reign with Him?

## **2. Gift of peace**

John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Proverbs 16:17; Romans 16:20; Colossians 3:12-15; Philippians 4:4-7,19

When Christ comes into our life, he gives a lasting peace. He does this by declaring and promoting a cease-fire right inside the heart of man. Men who are converted to Christ want to reconcile and restore. Reconciliation and restoration are leading signs of salvation in Christ. Unsaved, unconverted and unregenerated sinful men are enemies of God and often live lives that are injurious to other men. There is no peace for the wicked says the word of God. Jesus Christ is the bridge and bridge-builder, bringing total and lasting reconciliation between man and his God and between man and His neighbor. When we are born-again, we have the peace of God and great peace like a river. Peace with God guarantees us divine help, His presence, support and total obliteration of demonic and enemy activities (Proverbs 16:7). If God be for us, none can be (work) against us. Peace with men through restoration, reconciliation and restitution frees us from guilty conscience and emboldens us to pray to God in faith. This gift of lasting peace is the will and plan of God for our life today. If we possess it, it come with great gains.

## **3. Gains of peace from the prince**

John 14:27; 1 Chronicles 22:8-13

Christ promised His followers peace. The peace Christ promised can be received by:

1. Repentance (Acts 3:19)
2. Restitution. Acts 24:16
3. Obedience to God's word. Philippians 4:9
4. Regular prayer to resist the devil and faith in God and His promises
5. Reconciliation ministry to others. Isaiah 52:7
6. Relinquishing dangerous ambitions and freedom from covetousness. Psalm 37:7-11

7. Remaining rooted in Christ and abiding in Him continually

The gains of such peace are also described:

1. Your heart will not be troubled (calmness in your mind)
2. You will not be afraid. God will send fear far away
3. Sowing and reaping the fruits of righteousness (James 3:18)
4. Prosperity and progress only achievable in an environment of peace (Psalm 122:6.  
What is true of Jerusalem is also true of wherever there is peace.
5. Preservation in Faith and freedom from offence and backsliding (psalm 119:165)