

**“Christmas Is About Peace”**  
The Meaning of Christmas — Part 3  
Luke 2:13-14

***Christmas is a birthday celebration!***

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:8-10

- 1. In Christmas we celebrate God’s love.**
- 2. In Christmas we celebrate God’s presence.**
- 3. In Christmas we celebrate God’s favor.**

***Christmas is about Salvation!***

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”  
Luke 2:11-12

- 1. Christmas tells us we can be saved from our sins.**
- 2. Christmas tells us we are saved for a purpose.**
- 3. Christmas tells us we are saved by God’s grace.**

***Christmas is about Peace!***

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”  
Luke 2:13-14

***What kind of peace does Jesus give?***

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6

**Shalom**—Peace is an accurate translation, but it is so much more. It is fullness of life! (*Isaiah 54:10, 13 and John 10:10*)

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.  
Acts 10:36

**What is reconciliation?** It is when a broken relationship is restored.

**Question:** Where do you need peace this Christmas?

### 1. Spiritual peace

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

**Question:** Have you made peace with God?

### 2. Emotional peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

***You can pray or you can panic!***

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

***“Worry has never solved a single problem! Prayer changes things. The peace of God brings our conflicting emotions back together. All of the voices competing for our attention fade as we give ear to the Lord.”***

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:20

### 3. Relational peace

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:18-21

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

***“If you really are a child of God; if you really know Christ, the Prince of Peace, you’re going to be a peacemaker not a troublemaker. You are going to build people up, and not tear them down. You are going to compliment more than criticize. You are going to love people the way Jesus loved people.”***

**Questions:** With whom do you need to rebuild a relationship? To whom do you need to be reconciled?

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

*“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’”*

*Matthew 18:32-33*

**“Pride crushes peace. Humility opens the possibility for peace.”**

**Application:** Once you feel truly forgiven, you don't have a problem forgiving others. God has seen every problem in your life, every rebellion, every sin, and He still loves you and wants a relationship with you. He did everything necessary to make peace possible between you and Him. It is your turn to respond.

Don't you find it interesting that God sent angels to shepherds and charged them with the responsibility to spread the Good News about the Savior and about His offer of peace? He chose what we might think as the least qualified to be the first ambassadors of the Gospel. If a group of shepherds could do it, so can you! Just offer to others what God has offered to you; forgiveness, peace and reconciliation.