

SYLVIA'S CORNER

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

With all the goings on in the world, it's easy to lose our peace.

What is peace, you might ask? The Random House dictionary defines it as the absence of war, an agreement that ends war, a state of harmony among people, freedom from disorder in a community, freedom of mind from fear, anxiety, or annoyance, silence, or stillness.

Do you find much of this kind of peace in the world today? I don't.

There is a kind of peace however, that is available ONLY to the Christians that helps us to rise above all the goings on in the world. It's a peace that only comes with a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It's a peace that says, no matter what is going on in the world, no matter what is going on in my personal life, I can rest assured that God has it under control. He knows all about it and I can trust Him to take care of it. In John 14:27, Jesus tells His disciples. Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

This peace does not depend on outside circumstances. It's depends on my connection with the Prince of Peace. In Isaiah 9:6, the prophet describes the characteristics of Jesus when He says, "for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful' counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

In Job 22:21 Eliphaz encouraged Job to acquaint ourselves with God and be at peace. That is the key. Peace comes from acquainting ourselves with God. There is an empty place in every man until he reconciles himself with Jesus. Once that is done, the bible talks in Phillipians 4:7, about the peace of God that transcends all understanding that keeps

our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

To get this peace, we have to keep our eyes on Jesus, not in outside circumstances. Isaiah 26:3 says, "Thou wilt keep Him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on *Thee* because he trusted in *Thee*."

When our Savior was born he had one purpose. That was to reconcile us to God. There was only one way to do this. Sin had entered the world through disobedience of Adam and Eve. We were separated from God at that point. There was only one way for us to make peace with God at that point. It was for God to provide a sacrifice for sin. He had to send His son. His son was Jesus, a member of the Godhead who became human. He was the only man that was without sin or blemish like the unblemished animal sacrifices God required in the Old Testament.

The Bible says in Colossians 1:20, that Jesus make peace. What are the steps to peace with God we might ask?

It starts with realizing that we are helpless without Jesus. We have to look at our lives and realize that we are helpless that by attempting to handle our lives by ourselves, we have made a mess of things. We need to confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness. Then we need to invite Jesus to come into our heart and into every area of our life. We need to ask Him to take over our lives and clean up whatever the mess might be that we have created by living our life apart from Him.

Then we need to find a way to stay close to Him by surrounding ourselves with other believers. We need to develop a personal relationship with Him by surrounding ourselves with other believers, by talking to Him in prayer, and by reading the Bible.