

## **PEACE IN CHRIST**

### **Marc Gibson**

On the one hand we emphasize the good fight of faith against Satan and all things evil, and so this should be. On the other hand, we emphasize the peace enjoyed by those who are in Christ. It is somewhat of a paradox – while we fight, we also enjoy peace. Jesus recognized this when He warned of conflict (Matt. 10:34-37) and also promised the blessings of peace (Jn. 14:27).

It is like living in this country. While we enjoy peace within this country, there has been much conflict over the years with hostile forces outside this country. Battles against these forces have been necessary to preserve the peace we have been blessed to enjoy. While peace is wonderful, we must be ready and willing to go to battle to preserve it.

The Christian is a soldier of the cross (Eph. 6:10-18) and a peacemaker (Matt. 5:9) at the same time. As soldiers of the cross we are to withstand the attacks of the evil one. As peacemakers we are to bring men to Christ where unity and love reign in the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus came to bring peace to all men. His birth was announced by the heavenly host with the promise “on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Lk. 2:14). Jesus reconciled Jew and Gentile together “to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off [Gentiles] and to those who were near [Jews]” (Eph. 2:16-17).

The word of Christ brings peace to the troubled heart through forgiveness of sins. This is obtained by obedience to His will (Acts 2:38). This brings men together in unity and love as they humbly serve God and one another. While we give no advantage to the enemy of truth and fight him with every ounce of our being, we embrace the beloved peace of Christ with every faithful child of God. What a strong defense we have, and what a soothing peace we enjoy – all of which is in Christ!