

# PURSUING PEACE

## Introduction

- 1) **Yahweh Shalom** (Judg. 6:24) – Gideon built an altar and called it “The LORD is Peace”
- 2) **SHALOM** (Hebrew; cf. 1 Sam. 25:6) – “peace; completeness; welfare; health... a very important term in the Old Testament and has maintained its place in Mishnaic, rabbinic, and modern Hebrew... signifies a state in which one can feel at ease, comfortable with someone. The relationship is one of harmony and wholeness, which is the opposite of the state of strife and war... the state of being at ease is experienced both externally and internally” (*Nelson’s Expository Dictionary of the Old Testament*)
- 3) **Romans 14:19** – “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace...”
- 4) **2 Thessalonians 3:16** – “May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way”
- 5) Do you desire peace in your life, your family, the church, the world? How do we obtain and maintain true peace in our lives today?

## I) **GOD: The Source of True Peace**

- A) The Lord God is the source of true peace (Psa. 4:8; 29:11; cf. 1 Cor. 14:33 not turmoil)
  - 1) Peace comes to those who love God’s law (Psa. 119:165; *harmony* between man and God)

## II) **The Promise of Peace through the Messiah**

- A) Prophecy of the Prince of Peace/kingdom of peace (Isa. 9:6-7; 2:2-4)
- B) Covenant of peace (Ezek. 37:26)
- C) Our peace provided by His sacrifice (Isa. 53:5)
- D) NO peace is promised for the wicked (Isa. 57:19-21; 59:8; Jas. 4:4)

## III) **JESUS: The Provider of Spiritual Peace**

- A) Peace announced at His birth (Lk. 2:10-14)
- B) Brought “peace” to a raging sea (Mk. 4:35-39 – demonstrated power to bring peace)
- C) Jesus gives peace now to His disciples (Jn. 14:27)
- D) We have peace together with God in Christ (Eph. 2:11-18; Col. 1:19-23)

## IV) **Possessing the Peace of Christ Today**

- A) To possess the peace of Christ today we must:
  - 1) Be justified by faith in Christ – obedient to the gospel of peace (Rom. 5:1; 6:16-17)
  - 2) Be spiritually minded; seek wisdom from above (Rom. 8:6; 15:13; Jas. 3:17)
  - 3) Keep the unity of the Spirit (Eph. 4:3; fruit of the Spirit Gal. 5:22)

## V) **How Can I Continue to Pursue the Peace of Christ Today?**

- A) *Flee from evil* (2 Tim. 2:22)
- B) *Put God first above men* (Matt. 10:34-37; 1 Cor. 7:15)
  - 1) Peace with God requires fighting good warfare with evil (Eph. 6:12-15; Rom. 16:20)
- C) *Be a peacemaker* (Matt. 5:9)
  - 1) Make spiritual peace with God and man; involves traits of peaceful living (cf. Jas. 3:17)
- D) *Live peaceably with all men as much as possible* (Heb. 12:14; Rom. 12:18; Prov. 16:7)
- E) *Seek peace and unity with brethren in the Lord* (2 Cor. 13:11; Rom. 14:19; 1 Pet. 3:8-11)
- F) *Be constant in fervent prayer and supplication to God* (Phil. 4:6-7)

## Conclusion

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You” (Isa. 26:3). This is the blessing available to every Christian today. Some still struggle to realize it in their lives. Will you obey Jesus and possess this peace? Will you be faithful to God and pursue the peace of Christ daily? The joy of God awaits you. Believe and be baptized today!