

Outline

Introduction

- Peace as a decorative word versus a lived reality
- The disconnect between Christmas imagery and inner experience
- Central question: How can there be so much talk of peace yet so little peace within us?

The Promise of Peace (John 14:27)

- Jesus promised a different kind of peace
- The Advent Peace Candle symbolizes the Person who is peace
- Not just hope of stillness, but peace personified

Isaiah's Prophecy (Isaiah 9:6)

- The title "Prince of Peace" - Sar Shalom
 - Sar: commander, ruler, chief
 - Shalom: wholeness, restoration, harmony
- Historical context: Israel under Assyrian threat
- Promise of restoration through a coming child

The Angelic Announcement (Luke 2:14)

- Seven hundred years after Isaiah's prophecy
- Peace announced to shepherds, not kings
- Peace through presence, not power
- Jesus as the Presence of Peace personified

Two Aspects of Peace Jesus Offers

1. Peace WITH God (Romans 5:1)

- Humanity's greatest conflict is with God
- Sin as the source of separation
- Significance of the virgin birth
- Jesus as the sinless sacrifice (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- Reconciliation as the primary purpose of Christ's death
- Empowerment to live differently: Joy, Hope, Peace

2. Peace OF God (Isaiah 26:3)

- Perfect peace (shalom shalom) - complete, unbroken peace
- Peace in the middle of storms, not just absence of them
- Greek concept: eirēnē - joining or binding together
- Biblical peace as restoration of connection

The Nature of Biblical Peace

- Not escape from reality, but stability within reality
- John 16:33 - tribulation exists, but Christ has overcome
- Peace found in yielding authority to Christ

Contrast with Worldly Peace

- Pax Romana: peace through force and fear
- Jesus' peace through the cross, not the sword
- Paradoxical peace found in surrender, not control

The Practice of Peace

- Anxiety stems from trying to control what only God commands
- Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust and lean on God
- Philippians 4:6-7 - Prayer, petition, thanksgiving
- Supernatural peace that surpasses understanding

Application and Mission

- Living as ambassadors of peace
- Called to be peacemakers, not just peace-lovers
- Bringing reconciliation, calm, and the gospel to others
- Peace that brings salvation

The Arc of Biblical Peace

- Genesis: sin shattered peace in the garden
- Revelation 22: restoration and eternal shalom
- The difference: World's peace depends on circumstance; God's peace depends on Christ

Conclusion

- When the Prince of Peace reigns in your heart, inner stillness exists despite outer storms
- Heaven's stillness can live within us