

**“When Peace Like a River”**

“ ... Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river ... ” (Isa. 66:12).

“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace, for them that make peace”  
(Jas. 3:18).

The Lord calls us to a life of peace (Psa. 34:14; 119:164; 46:4; Prov. 12:20; Isa. 26:3; 48:18,22; 66:12; 1Cor. 7:15; Phil. 4:7; Him. 2:2; Heb. 12:14; 2Pet. 3:14). And, what is this peace? Is this the *shalom* of the ancient patriarchs and prophets?

1. What this peace is not.

This peace is not false optimism. Isaiah (Isa. 57:19-21), Jeremiah (Jer. 6:14; 8:11) and Ezekiel (Ezek. 13:10) all affirm this very point Jesus, himself, cautioned against unreal expectations of this world (Jn. 14:27). This peace is not the absence of war, or of tribulation, but the blessed security of having the Lord as our God (Isa. 26:3).

2. This peace is a gospel peace.

When the gospel is preached, a certain peace is proclaimed (Nah. 1:15; Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15). This peace derives especially from the prophecy that the Messiah (Christ) would bring a peace by the chastisement of Himself (Isa. 53:5; Col. 1:20). This we understand to be accomplished through the cross of Christ (Rom. 5:1). The message of the gospel preached serves to publish this peace to the world (Ac. 10:36-39).

3. This peace is for those “in Christ Jesus.”

The scriptures are clear and exact about who the recipients of this peace are: “Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus” (1Pet. 5:14; NKJV). To be “in Christ Jesus,” is to be in a relationship with God through baptism (Mt. 28:19; Gal. 3:27).

There is a line from Shakespeare, “Smooth run the waters where the brook is deep” (2 Henry VI, 3.1.53). Is there such a depth in your life today?

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