

**He is our Prince of Peace
December 23 & 24, 2022**

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jesus is my:

- **Wonderful Counselor** – He is always there for His children with the perfect word of comfort.
- **Mighty God** – He is never caught off guard by life's storms and controls the universe, as well as every detail of my life.
- **Everlasting Father** – He's a Father to the fatherless and will never leave me alone.
- **Prince of Peace** – He is the ultimate source of unconditional peace.

Jesus gives three types of peace:

- Peace with **God**.
- Peace with **others**.
- Peace with **myself**.

Romans 5:10 (TPT)

So if while we were still enemies, God fully reconciled us to himself to the death of his Son, then something greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, and because we share in his resurrection life, how much more will we be rescued from sins dominion!

Philippians 4:6-7 (TPT)

Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell him every detail of your life, then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ.

It is not God's will that I lead a troubled, tumultuous, fear-filled life with nothing but regret from my past and anxiety about my future.

John 14:27 (TPT)

"I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!"

No one can achieve this PEACE without Jesus.

The Three Philosophies of Jesus' Day:

- **The Hedonist** (Romans 1) The one who believes the pursuit of pleasure is life's ultimate purpose.
- **The Legalist** (Romans 2) The one who adheres strictly to God's law, believing that it will lead to everlasting salvation.
- **The Judgementalist** (Romans 3) The religious self-righteous person who thinks they can judge people's heart, intent, and motive.

Romans 3:21-26 (NLT)

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

The Five Pathways to Peace:

1 **Prepare my heart and mind with genuine repentance.**

The Greek word for repent is “metanoia” – To change one's mind.

Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

As the scriptures say, “No one is righteous not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

2 Peter 3:9 (TPT)

This means that, contrary to man's perspective, the Lord is not late with his promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, his “delay” simply reveals his loving patience toward you, because he does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance.

People Everywhere Are Created Equal

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

2

Embrace the gift of God's grace by faith.

Romans 3:19-20 (NLT)

Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (TPT)

For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

Three truths about a gift:

- A gift cannot be earned or it's not a gift.
- A gift cannot be purchased by the recipient or it's not a gift.
- A gift cannot be revoked by the giver or it's not a gift.

Romans 11:29 (NIV)

...for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

3

Accept the exciting changes God will make in my life.

Romans 3:22b-24 (TPT)

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Instant but continual changes:

- I get a fresh start from this day on.
- I get a new nature.
- I get the Holy Spirit.
- I get an eternal family.
- I get a purposeful life through guilt-free living.

4

Choose to pursue peace with others now that I'm at peace with God.

Romans 12:16-18 (TPT)

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

This Christmas, it's time to forgive or ask for forgiveness.

Suggestions:

- **Pray for the courage and strength to repair relationships.**

Matthew 5:44 (TPT)

“However, I say to you, love your enemy, bless the one who curses you, do something wonderful for the one who hates you, and respond to the very ones who persecute you by praying for them.”

- **Pursue a meeting and method of communication that is appropriate.**

Matthew 18:15 (TPT)

“If your fellow believer sins against you, you must go to that one privately and attempt to resolve the matter. If he responds, your relationship is restored.”

- **Proclaim unconditional forgiveness or remorse for whatever happened.**

Colossians 3:13-14 (TPT)

Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them. For love is supreme and must flow through each of these virtues. Love becomes the mark of true maturity.

5

Explain what the Prince of Peace has done in my life to anyone who will listen.

1 Peter 3:15b-16 (ICB)

Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have. But answer in a gentle way and with respect. Always feel that you are doing right. Then, those who speak evil of your good life in Christ will be made ashamed.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (TPT)

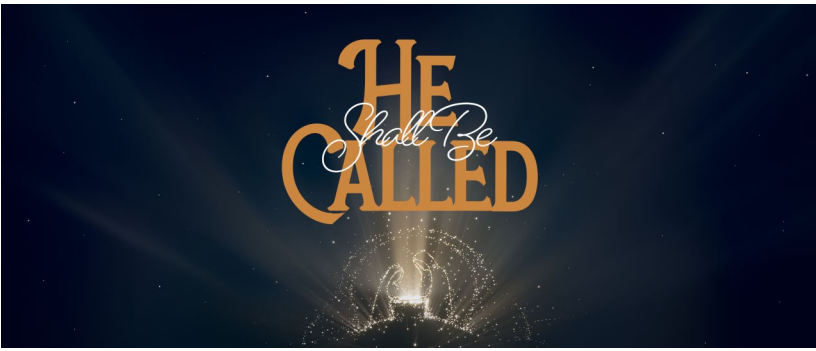
I became “weak” to the weak to win the weak. I have adapted to the culture of every place I’ve gone so that I could more easily win people to Christ. I’ve done all this so that I would become God’s partner for the sake of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (MSG)

I don’t know about you, but I’m running hard for the finish line. I’m giving it everything I’ve got. No lazy living for me! I’m staying alert and in top condition. I’m not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

Write the name of someone in your life you want to share the gospel with. If you become a Christian today put your name here:

Invite this person to join you at Grace Church in two weeks! Next weekend, our New Year’s Service is ONLINE only – watch live on Facebook, YouTube or live.gracechurchco.com



**He is our Prince of Peace
December 23 & 24, 2022**

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jesus is my:

- _____ **Counselor – He is always there for His children with the perfect word of comfort.**
- _____ **God – He is never caught off guard by life's storms and controls the universe, as well as every detail of my life.**
- _____ **Father – He's a Father to the fatherless and will never leave me alone.**
- _____ **of Peace – He is the ultimate source of unconditional peace.**

Jesus gives three types of peace:

- **Peace with _____.**
- **Peace with _____.**
- **Peace with _____.**

Romans 5:10 (TPT)

So if while we were still enemies, God fully reconciled us to himself to the death of his Son, then something greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, and because we share in his resurrection life, how much more will we be rescued from sins dominion!

Philippians 4:6-7 (TPT)

Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell him every detail of your life, then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ.

It is not God's will that I lead a troubled, tumultuous, fear-filled life with nothing but regret from my past and anxiety about my future.

John 14:27 (TPT)

"I leave the gift of peace with you—my peace. Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!"

No one can achieve this _____ without Jesus.

The Three Philosophies of Jesus' Day:

- **The _____** (Romans 1) The one who believes the pursuit of pleasure is life's ultimate purpose.
- **The _____** (Romans 2) The one who adheres strictly to God's law, believing that it will lead to everlasting salvation.
- **The _____** (Romans 3) The religious self-righteous person who thinks they judge people's heart, intent, and motive.

Romans 3:21-26 (NLT)

But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

The Five Pathways to Peace:

1 _____ my heart and mind with genuine repentance.

The Greek word for _____ is "metanoia" – To change one's mind.

Romans 3:10-12 (NLT)

As the scriptures say, "No one is righteous not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

2 Peter 3:9 (TPT)

This means that, contrary to man's perspective, the Lord is not late with his promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, his "delay" simply reveals his loving patience toward you, because he does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance.

_____eople _____verywhere _____re _____reated _____qual

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

2

_____ the gift of God's grace by faith.

Romans 3:19-20 (NLT)

Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (TPT)

For by grace you have been saved by faith. Nothing you did could ever earn this salvation, for it was the love gift from God that brought us to Christ! So no one will ever be able to boast, for salvation is never a reward for good works or human striving.

Three truths about a gift:

- A gift cannot be _____ or it's not a gift.
- A gift cannot be _____ by the recipient or it's not a gift.
- A gift cannot be _____ by the giver or it's not a gift.

Romans 11:29 (NIV)

...for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

3

_____ the exciting changes God will make in my life.

Romans 3:22b-24 (TPT)

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Instant but continual changes:

- I get a _____ from this day on.
- I get a new _____.
- I get the _____.
- I get an eternal _____.
- I get a _____ life through guilt-free living.

4

_____ to pursue peace with others now that I'm at peace with God.

Romans 12:16-18 (TPT)

Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

This Christmas, it's time to _____ or ask for forgiveness.

Suggestions:

- _____ for the courage and strength to repair relationships.

Matthew 5:44 (TPT)

“However, I say to you, love your enemy, bless the one who curses you, do something wonderful for the one who hates you, and respond to the very ones who persecute you by praying for them.”

- _____ a meeting and method of communication that is appropriate.

Matthew 18:15 (TPT)

“If your fellow believer sins against you, you must go to that one privately and attempt to resolve the matter. If he responds, your relationship is restored.”

- _____ unconditional forgiveness or remorse for whatever happened.

Colossians 3:13-14 (TPT)

Tolerate the weaknesses of those in the family of faith, forgiving one another in the same way you have been graciously forgiven by Jesus Christ. If you find fault with someone, release this same gift of forgiveness to them. For love is supreme and must flow through each of these virtues. Love becomes the mark of true maturity.

5

_____ what the Prince of Peace has done in my life to anyone who will listen.

1 Peter 3:15b-16 (ICB)

Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have. But answer in a gentle way and with respect. Always feel that you are doing right. Then, those who speak evil of your good life in Christ will be made ashamed.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (TPT)

I became “weak” to the weak to win the weak. I have adapted to the culture of every place I’ve gone so that I could more easily win people to Christ. I’ve done all this so that I would become God’s partner for the sake of the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (MSG)

I don’t know about you, but I’m running hard for the finish line. I’m giving it everything I’ve got. No lazy living for me! I’m staying alert and in top condition. I’m not going to get caught napping, telling everyone else all about it and then missing out myself.

Write the name of someone in your life you want to share the gospel with. If you become a Christian today put your name here:

**Invite this person to join you at Grace Church in two weeks!
Next weekend, our New Year’s Service is ONLINE only – watch live on Facebook, YouTube or live.gracechurchco.com**