

Peace

Invocation

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke *is* easy and my burden is light.

Responsive Reading

Peace

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Jesus is the child and the Mighty God and the Prince of Peace. Jesus said in:

Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke *is* easy and my burden is light.

There are several things in this text that are important; first, our peace comes from understanding Jesus ways and following them, second, Jesus is the Light of the World, His burden or job is spreading that light to others. It is human nature to follow the world and desire **its** things but God wants us to shift our focus off of the things of the world onto spiritual things.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **17** And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever.

The lust of the eyes is loving things. When we put our affections on things, if something happens to them, it will bother us. If we stand a chance of loosing them, that will bother us. If we borrowed money to buy houses or vehicles or other things and we don't have the money to pay the loan back, it can cause concern and worry that we might lose them. The way of the world is to have a lot and to get more and better and bigger and to live beyond our means but the way of Jesus is to be content with what you have. We don't have to keep up with the Jones's way of life.

1 Tim 6:6 godliness with contentment is great gain. When we always have to have more, we aren't at peace. The things in this world are just things, they are here to use but we can't take them with us and when the end of the world comes, they will melt and be of no use to anyone anyway. They should not occupy concern in our minds.

We pray the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this day, our daily bread." We live in a very affluent society, food is everywhere. Most of us have food enough for a long time. We don't find

ourselves living from day to day like people in other parts of the world. For this I am thankful. God has truly been good to us.

God's burden is that we learn of Him and His ways and then we share them with others. Part of God's method of having peace, is for us not to let things run your life.

This idea of being born again, is having Jesus change your heart so you don't love the things of the world but when you love the things of God, being a blessing to others is your desire. I was hungry and you fed me, and so on.

Worry is interest paid on trouble that hasn't happened yet and why do you want to pay that bill?

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He that is afraid is not made perfect in love.

I remember a time in my life when I was in my early 20s, I had a wife and a son and I was a Christian but I didn't have any money. I was worried about the situation and then I came to my senses and "What am I worried about? God is big enough to keep the world spinning around the sun. For me to think that He isn't able to take care me is crazy." So, I quit worrying and went my way. Things turned out ok and the rest is history. We can worry when we have no need to, but God wants us to trust Him. This is Jesus talking, in

Matt 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** Fear not therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows.

God loves us and cares for us. We are not to be lazy and do nothing. God wants us to do good works.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.** What are good works?

Matt 25:35 For I was an hungry, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in: **36** Naked, and you clothed me: I was sick, and you visited me: I was in prison, and you came unto me.

Sometimes it takes money to help people. Paul says that we should go out and work so we will have, to give to others.

Eccl 9:10 Whatsoever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; God doesn't want us lazy.

1 Thess 4:11 And that you study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; **12** That you may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* you may have lack of nothing.

There is another part to peace. Eccl 9:5 For the living know that they shall die. But the question is, what is going to happen to me when I die? If our relationship with God is what it should be, then we know we can be at peace with Him and we will live with Him eternally in a place that He has prepared for us.

Jer 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of **peace**, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

Jesus wants to give us peace but we need to take time and come to Him. He wants us to be His children and live with Him forever.

I perceive that God has a soft heart for mankind. When Jesus was resurrected, He met Mary and told her to go tell the disciples that He was alive and that He would meet with them in Galilee. He knew that they were hiding from the Jewish leaders who had just crucified Jesus, with the idea that they were next. Galilee was 75 miles north, a three-day journey on foot. True, they wouldn't have to worry about the Jews but it would take time to get there. Jesus wanted them to be at peace. He didn't want to wait three days. It started on the road to Emmaus.

Luke 24:18 Cleopas, answering And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: **20** And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. **21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done. **22** Yes, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulcher; **23** And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. **24** And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulcher, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

These guys were having a bad day but it was only their perception. They had the idea that the Messiah would set up His eternal Kingdom, get rid of the hated Roman rule and get rid of the unrighteous Jewish leaders but Jesus came to be the sacrifice to end all sacrifices. He came to setup a new covenant. Mankind can become children of God by accepting Jesus sacrifice for their sin and allowing Him to create in them a new heart, being born again. Jesus wanted His disciples to understand what He did and set their minds at peace. He wasn't willing to wait 3 more days. That evening, when the disciples were meeting together behind locked doors, Jesus appeared to them. They thought He was a spirit but Jesus said feel me. A spirit does not have flesh and bone like you see me have. Then after speaking with them for a while, He disappeared and left them.

In closing, Jesus is the Creator God, the Prince of Peace. He wants us to be at peace with Him and the world around us. He says come unto Me, learn of Me and I will give you peace in your soul. We can't be seeking after the desires of the world and have Jesus peace. Godliness with contentment is great gain. To come to Jesus for forgiveness and ask Him to create in us a clean heart so we can be born again, is the way to get His peace. Living a life in harmony with God's design, doing good works, will also give us peace. Knowing what will happen to us when we die will also give us peace and joy. Jesus has a soft heart towards us. He wants us to be at peace. May God grant you His peace as you draw near to Him.