



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: God's Peace

Date: December 8, 2024

Scripture Text: Isaiah 9:6-9

Notes:

We continue our focus on the observance of Advent. As we focus on the first coming of Jesus at His birth over 2,000 years ago, it is also a time to focus on His second coming. Last Sunday we looked at how God is our only *hope*. This week our focus is God's *peace*. Peace is sought in many different ways. We all look for peace, but true and lasting peace can only be found in a relationship with Christ. Our focus today is to get a better understanding of God's peace and to begin to experience it.

I. God's Peace is Promised (Isaiah 9:6-9)

The prophet Isaiah describes a Child that will one day be born, a special Child. This Child will be given names that signify His character. He will be characterized by extraordinary wisdom (Wonderful Counselor). He will have a life that is never ending (Eternal Father). He will bring peace (Prince of Peace) and be given the title of Mighty God. No one meets these characteristics other than the Messiah Jesus. The peace that Christ brings is not the peace that the world embraces (i.e., the lack of conflict), but of fulfillment and completeness. Jesus fulfills and completes us.

- Consider the characteristics listed in [vss. 6-7](#) describing the Messiah. Explain how each of these describe a characteristic of Jesus.
- How would you define 'Peace'?
- The Hebrew word for peace is 'Shalom'. Shalom can also be rendered as; safe, well, happy, friendly, prosperity, health, whole, prosperous.
 - How can each of these renderings point back to Jesus?
- How can remembering that God's peace is promised by His word affect how you experience peace ([Is. 26:3](#))?

II. God's Peace is Delivered (Luke 2)

God promises peace in [Isaiah 9](#), and He delivers peace in [Luke 2](#) in the form of Jesus Christ. [Luke 2](#) is the story of the birth of Jesus. A heavenly host appeared to a group of shepherds watching their flock by night ([vs. 8](#)), they proclaimed "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth *peace* among men with whom He is pleased." ([vs. 14](#)). The coming of Jesus would bring peace, peace between God and us. A peace that had been lost since Adam and Eve first sinned. Jesus would fulfill the need to reconcile us to God by His redemptive work on the cross.



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- As the heavenly host proclaimed peace on earth at the birth of Jesus, how was Jesus' arrival God's peace delivered?
- Imagine if you were one of the shepherds in the field that night. How would you respond to the 'good news of great joy'?
- What are examples of places people look for peace?
- Why do you think there is such an effort made to look for peace in all the wrong places?
- How does God's peace bring contentment, completeness, and fulfillment?

III. God's Peace is Experienced (Luke 2)

Upon hearing the 'good news of great joy', the shepherds left the fields to go find Jesus ([vss. 15-16](#)). They found Him just as they had been told. After they found Jesus, they left glorifying and praising God, making known what they had been told about the Child. All who heard were in wonder at what they had been told.

- After the shepherds heard about Jesus, they had to see for themselves what they had been told.
 - How have you sought after Jesus?
 - Why is it important for Christians to continue their pursuit of Jesus?
- The shepherds were able to experience peace as they experienced Jesus.
 - [Romans 5:1](#) states that as Christians, we are justified by faith and as a result have peace with God through Jesus Christ.
 - Describe the peace you experience as a child of God.
- What are circumstances when a Christian is not experiencing God's peace?
- What choices do Christians need to make to experience God's peace?
- How can experiencing God's peace affect how we serve Him?
- Are you experiencing God's peace?

No God, no peace – Know God, know peace.