



CHRISTMAS A TIME OF PEACE

Christmas 2022. 12/4/22.

Pastor Oscar Chavez

Intro.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". Isaiah 9:6

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will toward men." Luke 2:14

Jesus: "I am giving you THE GIFT OF PEACE, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world gives." John 14:27

Context: Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

"God is in Control"

What kind of peace does Jesus give us?

1. *Spiritual peace - that's with God*
2. *Emotional peace - that's with yourself.*
3. *Relational peace. - that's with other people.*

3 KINDS OF PEACE JESUS OFFERS YOU

1. Peace.

"God sent Christ to make peace between himself and us." 2 Corinthians 5:18

"Since we are made right with God by faith in Christ, we have PEACE WITH GOD because of what Jesus has done for us." Romans 5:1

"Even though we were his enemies, God made peace with us, because his Son died for our sins. Now that we're at peace with God, we will be saved for eternity by his Son's life." Romans 5:10

"Jesus sacrificed for our sins once and for all when he offered himself on the cross". Heb. 7:27

2. Peace.

"Let the PEACE OF GOD rule IN your heart..." Colossians 3:15

3. Peace.

"¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility." Ephesians 2:16

"In Christ's family there is no division between Jew and Gentile, slave or free, or even male and female. In Christ we're all equal and the same. We're all in a common relationship with Jesus." Galatians 3:28

Sermon Discussion Guide

The Christmas Time of Peace

*"I am giving you the gift of peace, the kind of peace that only I can give.
It isn't like the peace that this world gives." John 14:27*

At Christmas time we hear a lot of songs and talk about peace, but the peace the world gives is phony and fragile. It doesn't last. Only Jesus can extend the Christmas gift of real peace, and only to those whose hearts are ready and willing to receive it. There are three kinds of peace Jesus offers us: 1) peace with God; 2) peace within me; and 3) peace with others. If you're not feeling his peace this Christmas, which of these is missing from your life?

Let's Talk It Over.

- 1. Briefly share what the word "peace" means to you.*

- 2. In order to experience true soul peace, we have to let go of those things that stress us out and overburden us. How are gentleness and peace the complete opposite of life's stressors? Why would Jesus offer us gentleness and peace rather than stamina and endurance?*

- 3. Recognize that while the peace Jesus offers is a free gift, receiving it requires decisions from you. Share with your group where you most need his peace in your life. Pray for one another to do what is needed to receive it.*