

December 17, 2017  
Advent 2017 - Week 3 - Peace  
Ephesians 6:15

The gospel of Peace  
The readiness it produces

1. Gospel of peace

a. Good news/Gospel

i. Peace with God = good news

1. From enemy to child

- a. Rom 5:10a For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son
- b. James 4:4 You adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever chooses to be a friend of the world renders himself an enemy of God.
- c. 1 John 3:1-3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.
- d. John 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- e. Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

2. Changed from hostility to affection

- a. Rom 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
- b. Rom 5:11 More than that, we also rejoice (*boast, glory, brag*) in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

- c. Col 1:19-22 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
- 3. From indebted to redeemed
  - a. Gal 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.
- 4. From a human lineage to a heavenly lineage
  - a. Ephesians 2:11-22 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus

himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- b. Human heritage is division - Godly heritage is reconciliation
  - i. Our new nature imitates his own therefore we about the business of reconciliation

## 2. Readiness

- a. When we talk about feet we are speaking about a paradox - two things that seem to be in opposition - foundation and mobility
  - i. sandals worn by the Roman soldier
    - 1. Equipped with metal spiked soles the roman army was fast moving and was able to engage the enemy before the enemy was ready because they marched faster than what was thought to be possible; then when engaged in battle there footing was sure on a battlefield that might be wet and would be increasingly muddied by the blood of the fallen
  - ii. The action of a tug of war
    - 1. Constant adjustment of foundation and mobility
  - iii. Our feet serve as our foundation and our mobility
- b. Stand
  - i. A form of "stand" is used 4 times in in introduction to the armor of God in Eph 6
    - 1. Vs 11, 13b, 14- stand
    - 2. Vs 13 - stand against (withstand, oppose, resist)
  - ii. This is not the picture of a soldier standing at attention rather of one taking a fighting stance
    - 1. This is a stance that is firmly established from which both offensive and defensive moves can be made
- c. Move
  - i. The movement of the gospel is to peace
    - 1. The readiness of the gospel springs from the foundation of Jesus Christ and what he has done - His movement which was to reconcile us to God
      - a. 2 Cor 5:16-21 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is

a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Application:

1. Christmas, we say, is a time of peace, yet for many of us the the thought of spending time with family is not a peaceful one. Knowing that the Gospel is peace should cause our posture, our stance, toward others to look like his stance toward us. God's posture was one of selfless love. And his movement was the evidence of his stance. He "moved" in love because he "stood" in love. "For God so *loved* the world *that* that he *gave* his one and only Son . . . (John 3:16, emphasis mine). May God grant us to stand in and move toward peace this Christmas.

Discussion Questions:

1. Take time to reflect on the good news of Jesus, the Gospel. Why is it good news? In what ways has the gospel brought peace in your life?
2. Have you thought of the gospel giving readiness (Eph. 6:15)? For what has the gospel made you ready?
3. Think the ideas of mobility and foundation. What part do each of them play in the gospel message and its proclamation? What are the strengths or weaknesses of both? How do they complement one another? How can a stand made on the gospel of peace provide a firm foundation and the readiness to move?