

## ***The Pursuit of Peace***

March 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### ***Luke 19:28-42***

#### **A Celebration in Jerusalem! “*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!...*”**

- ❖ The whole multitude of His disciples began to rejoice.
- ❖ In the midst of the celebration, Jesus began to weep over Jerusalem.  
*“Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!...”*  
↳ Jesus knew the deepest cry of the human heart – peace!

#### **What are “the things that make for peace?”**

- ❖ Peace primarily has to do with relationships – we think of peace as being the absence of war, or the absence of conflict.  
*Peace:* (Greek - eirene) “(a) harmonious relationships between men ... (g) the sense of rest and contentment ...”<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Peace also has to do with quiet inner tranquility – we think of peace of mind.  
*Peace:* “3. Freedom from internal commotion ... 5. Freedom from agitation or disturbance by the passions, as from fear, terror, anger, anxiety, or the like; ...”<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ Jesus revealed that there are two kinds of peace: **The peace He gives and the peace the world gives.**  
*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.” John 14:27*

#### **Worldly Peace**

*Isaiah 48:22 “There is no peace, says the Lord, for the wicked.”*

- ❖ The opposite of peace is confusion, disturbance, chaos, commotion, disorder, upheaval.
- ❖ Apart from Christ, the pursuit of peace, rest and contentment is futile.  
*Jeremiah 8:15 “...because we sinned against the Lord...we looked for peace, but no good came...”*
- ❖ The pursuit of peace leads many into: Alcoholism, Drug addiction, multiple sexual relationships (Hetero and Homo), pornography, over-eating and under-eating (Bulimia and Anorexia), work-a-holism, over emphasis on health and exercise, etc.  
↳ No amount of rehab programs, counseling, or changes of behavior will bring the inner peace that is longed for.

“When a man finds no peace within himself, it is useless to seek it elsewhere” - Francois De La Rochefoucauld

- ❖ **Celebrate Recovery** is a ministry for overcoming “hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and directs individuals to a new life through Jesus Christ and the Word of God.  
*“Agree with God, and be at peace; ...” Job 22:21*

#### **The Peace of God**

- ❖ We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
*“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1*  
↳ The breach in man’s relationship with God, the Creator of us all, through sin has caused a void and emptiness that only Christ can fill!  
*“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, ...” Isaiah 59:2*
- ❖ We have forgiveness of sin as Jesus has removed the barrier between us and God.  
*“...But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” Hebrews 9:26*  
📖 Romans 8:1-6

❖ We have harmony restored with God and others through our Lord Jesus.

📖 Ephesians 2:11-22

↳ Jesus Himself is our peace and with the restoration of our relationship with Almighty God comes healing in all relationships!

❖ We experience peace and contentment even amid the storms of life.

*“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

“Sometimes God calms the storm and sometimes He calms us.” - Anonymous

*“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.” Isaiah 26:3-4*

**Jesus wept over the fact that Jerusalem would miss the only source of true lasting peace!**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7*

#### Endnotes:

Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

Vine, W.E. *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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