

Wednesday Encouragement

12/9/20

Anthony did a great job last week sharing about the season or Advent, and the Hope that is focused on in week 1 of Advent. Sticking with that theme, I want to share about peace today.

In churches that light the Advent wreath candles each week of Advent, the second candle often represents peace. In a physical, worldly sense, peace is hard to come by these days. If you want to think of peace in the dictionary way, at least, which defines it as “freedom from disturbance; tranquility.” This year has been a roller coaster of disturbances!

This, however, is not the kind of peace that we have as Christians. Peace is mentioned in Galatians 5 as one of the Fruits of the Spirit—a thing that grows and develops in us as we draw closer to God and in tune with His Spirit.

Peace is something that we are told in Isaiah, is something that comes from a right relationship with God. *“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”*

Isaiah 26:3 NLT

Peace comes from our trust in Him.

In a section of Isaiah titled “Hope in the Messiah,” we read this:

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**. His government and its peace will never end.”*

Isaiah 9:6-7 NLT

God’s people were told to have hope that peace was coming in the Messiah. Can you imagine how hard it must have been to hope when there was no evidence that this Messiah would come anytime soon? When hundreds of years had passed since this was prophesied? Would there ever be peace for God’s people?

We have the advantage, as Kraig reminded us on Sunday, of knowing the rest of the story. We know that the Prince of Peace was born. We can have even greater hope of the peace to come because we’ve met Jesus!

This promise of the Prince of Peace, however, was never for a promise of an easy life. A life of wealth and prosperity. Or even a life of health. It’s a promise that, regardless of how our short lives go, with our trust in Him—with a right relationship with Him—we have eternal peace with God in Heaven. Eternal—not just for the 80ish years most of us will live. We can have tough, hard, heartbreaking times and still have peace here in our lives. We can have peace in our souls, knowing that the ultimate Peace came and died for us, so that we could have eternal peace with Him.

True and lasting peace.

Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus!

Love you all!

Stacy