

## PEACE: WHEN AND WHAT KIND?

By

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You will read the term hundreds of times this month: "Peace on Earth." World leaders will refer to it. From all sides of the conflict will be a plea for peace. Even children will decorate school rooms with the words and millions of people in churches will pray for it.

But the effort being made for a world peace is not the kind of peace of which the angels sang. The failure of such peace is demonstrated by the fact that the world has been bathed in blood twice by wars designed to insure peace, and since World War II the blood of violence has not ceased to flow in the interest of "keeping the peace."

The Bible teaches us that all of the efforts at peace made by unbelieving man shall fail. Obviously there can never be peace as long as the world stands divided with one part seeking to overthrow the aims and life-principles of the other part.

**BUT PEACE WILL COME.** The promise of the angel is not to be forgotten nor is it to fail. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and as such He will one day reign over His Creation which will be perfectly at peace. If you are interested in peace, consider some of the truths of the Bible concerning it.

First, this peace will come only when all the enemies of God have been crushed and destroyed. "For He must reign, till He has put all His enemies under His feet" (I Cor. 15:25). As long as some men live in submission to God and some live as the enemies of God there can be no peace. It is the purpose of Satan to work against God, and the express intention of those who reject Christ is to destroy Christian belief from the face of the Earth. This effort will continue to grow in intensity until the very end of the world and the destruction of all such satanic power. "Then comes the end, when He shall deliver up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He has put all His enemies under His feet and when all things have been subjected unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subjected, to Him that did subject all things unto Him; that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 7:24, 25, 27). Only as men are in harmony with God and thus in harmony with each other can there be genuine peace. Since all mankind will not submit themselves to God's rule, the only alternative is to destroy the rebellious and thus end the conflict. (2 Thess. 1:8-9, 2 Pet. 3:7, Luke 19:27).

Second, this peace will be established only in the Kingdom of God, in its final and eternal setting. Jesus makes it crystal clear that His Kingdom is not a Kingdom of this present world. "My Kingdom is not of this world." Paul calls this world an evil one; writing that we are to be delivered "out of this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4). Jesus said that "in the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We thus learn that the peace the angel promised is not a world-peace to be

attained in the present age, amidst unbelieving and rebellious men, but that which will prevail in the new creation when the Kingdom of God is fully and finally established. This will bring man back full-circle around to the original and eternal purpose of God: to have man in His own image.

God is love, truth and righteousness. If man is in the image of God he will manifest the same attributes, love, truth and righteousness, which form the basis for peace.

Third, the peace man now is attempting through world parliaments are a satanic substitute, designed to bring man under Satan's yoke, and not to fulfill God's promise. It is a false peace, brought about by destroying the Godly standard for truth and righteousness and leveling all of mankind down to the lowest common denominator. All that offends the unbelieving sinner is outlawed under the cry of freedom and liberty. Voluntary action is possible only when it coincides with the desires of the anti-Christian planners. Peace is to be brought about by destroying the will of man through educational brain-washing, destroying the self-will or individual choice, and by the socializing of all institutions under a non-Christian central control. Peace, in this sense, means surrender of Godly convictions and the acceptance of the satanic conditions which are the opposite of God's purposes.

Anyone who reads can see that this so-called peace is nearing world-wide acceptance. Our own nation, which is the last and only bulwark of freedom, is making great strides to disarm and establish "peace" with the world-forces which have already ruled out God and His revealed will. The disarmament bill (already in force) and the Test Ban Treaty are concrete signs of the rapid move in this direction.

But it is just when the world is claiming peace – a peace woven out of falsehood and founded upon deception, rejecting Christ, the basis of peace – that world destruction will come. "When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape" (1 Thess. 5:3). A peace made under a world government controlled by or in agreement with non-Christians is the very opposite of the peace promised through Christ. In fact, Christ is the very One the world must be rid of in order to forge such a so-called peace.

There can be only one peace, the peace which God offers through the peace-maker, Jesus the Son of God. Therefore, to make peace with the world, which rejects Jesus is to be at enmity with God. Satan and the forces of evil, so predominant in the world, are the very things God will destroy in order that He might have peace within His Creation.

**PEACE IS POSSIBLE!** Jesus said, "These things have I have spoken unto you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 14:33). If you want "peace on earth," then look to the word's of Jesus. He said that the things He revealed (in the Bible) are revealed in order that we might have peace in a troubled world. It is not a peace WITH the world, but a peace IN SPITE of the world, which Christ alone can give. One who knows he is forgiven of sin through Christ can have peace IN Christ, whatever the outlook for the world may be.

Moreover, he can know that he is one of those who “look for a new heavens and a NEW EARTH wherein dwells righteousness” (2 Pet. 3:13)

You can have peace, a PERSONAL and INDIVIDUAL PEACE, a peace with God and peace of mind in the midst of world convulsions. “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing” (Rom. 15:13).

## **JUST FOR YOU–TH**

Recently a man, studying in Texas Tech, told me that he was neither Christian nor Atheist, but preferred to be classed as agnostic. He then added, “I guess that’s just an atheist without any guts.”

The world is being over-run by this kind of atheist. He may call himself agnostic, or pragmatist or broad-minded or by some more sophisticated title, but the fact remains that if he rejects Christ and His truth, then he also rejects God. Jesus said that “he that rejects Me rejects Him that sent Me” (Luke 10:16). God recognizes only one kind of believer – an honest one. If a person refuses to accept the revelation which God has given of Himself, through Christ, then he cannot honestly claim to be a believer of God.

One of the most effective weapons in the hands of the atheists (alias agnostics) is the psychological concepts of Sigmund Freud. These concepts have been exploited to such a degree by teachers and writers that they have permeated the educational system as well as modern literature. If you have not already run into them as a High School (or maybe Jr. High) student, you will have probably come under their influence in an indirect way, and in college you will meet them openly. The false concept of Freud is summed up in one word: “determinism.” In the words of a prominent writer in psychology, Ira Progoff, “Freud’s most obvious weakness lies in the determinism that underlies his work.” “Determinism” simply means that the things you do and the kind of person you are all are determined, by things of the past and others around you, so that you are a product of the past and of society. Your actions are really determined by the actions of parents or others who influence you. Thus you are not responsible, for you only act as you must act, being the product (or victim) of all that has gone into these influences.

If this were true, the Bible teaching of guilt for sin and punishment for the sinner would be foolishness and forgiveness of God, would be quite unnecessary. It seems, on the face of it, to be a comforting idea. Since others are really to blame for my personality and my actions, I am not responsible! Thus all manner of crimes can be excused under the false claim that the criminal has only acted in response to what society (or parents) have determined him to be.

This kind of teaching is obviously opposed to Christ, Who teaches that the individual will be judged for his own actions, because every wrong act is a sin against God. The solution is not to blame society nor the other person, but as a responsible person, created in God’s image, to apply the solution God gives.

But the so-called agnostic who advances Freud's philosophy of determinism is able to deceive many into thinking that he also has a form of Christian faith. The result is destruction to the understanding of the Gospel and a diminishing of personal responsibility. Freud was an atheist, and openly attacked Christianity. At least he was an atheist who had the courage to admit it. Also, we acknowledge, as pointed, out by Dr. Karl Menninger, that Freud made "one simple discovery" concerning hidden motives and feelings and. how to reveal them to the patient. We wish that modern agnostics would apply this discovery to themselves. They might find that their agnosticism is due to their desire to escape personal responsibility to men and to God.

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