

Wed Night



FRESH ENCOUNTER

PICKING UP THE PEACES

AUGUST 9, 2023 | NATHAN BIRT

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Ephesians 2:13-22)

INTRODUCTION

- a. Searching for peace
 - looking in all the wrong places?
 - b. Person does not follow after peace
 - c. Peace follows after person
 - God sends peace within Christian
 - d. Peace is result of action
 - God's action
 - Peace is not an emotion
- Three directions

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27)

Eph 2:14 For He (Jesus) Himself is
our Peace

1. PEACE FOLLOWS Reconciling WITH GOD

"To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:79)

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

"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes." (Luke 19:41-42)

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:7)

2. PEACE FOLLOWS Reaching Reconciling OTHERS

"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." (Colossians 3:14)

"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:2-3)

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)

"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." (Romans 14:19)

"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity," (2 Timothy 2:22)

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and

political peace different from God's peace
secular peace is opposite of warfare

stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." (Ezekiel 22:30)

"But all their works they do for to be seen of men..." (Matthew 23:5)

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." (Romans 12:18)

3. PEACE FOLLOWS Realizing GOD'S SPIRIT

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21)

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)

"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." (Romans 14:17)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." (Galatians 5:22)

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." (2 Peter 3:14)

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

CONCLUSION

Temple constructed in Jerusalem
= outer court of Gentiles
- middle court of (Jewish) women
- inner court of (Jewish) men
- each court separated by walls
→ inside interior court for the
priests holding the alters &
temple buildings
Eph 2:14 He has broken down the middle

"Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

wall(s) of separation
- action by Jesus for Jews &
Gentiles together