

Is there any hope for peace?

The endless wars, conflicts, and injustices we see in the world today only prove what the Bible has always declared concerning mankind: “The way of peace have they not known” (**Romans 3:17**).

All efforts to achieve lasting peace fail miserably because the *root of the problem* is not dealt with. God alone has the solution to the problem of peace—not only for nations, but also for you. He has successfully dealt with the root cause of all turmoil—*sin*.

Now He offers sure and lasting peace for both the heart and conscience through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Listen to the comforting words of Jesus:

“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**).

How can peace be made?

Man can never “make his peace with God.” Peace cannot be purchased or earned, nor can our tears, prayers, and resolutions ever make peace with Him. However, what we could not do, God has done perfectly and eternally!

“Having made peace through the blood of His cross” (**Colossians 1:20**). What is it that has made peace? It is the work of our Lord Jesus Christ, who bore “the chastisement of our peace” (**Isaiah 53:5**) on the cross. There, the full penalty of God’s judgment against sin fell upon our spotless Substitute. Then, as a sign of His acceptance of Christ’s perfect work, God raised up Christ Jesus from the dead. Peace has been made!

How can you possess peace?

“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (**Romans 5:1**). It is one thing for peace to have been made, but it is another thing for this peace to be possessed. It is peace *for* all mankind, but not *possessed* by all mankind. This peace must be received, and here is where faith comes in.

Faith takes God at His word

First, it acknowledges one’s lost and ruined condition: “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (**Romans 3:23**). Next, faith accepts Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord by trusting in Him who died and rose again to put away sin. All who believe on Him receive this blessed peace. It can be yours to possess – today!

When we rest our faith upon Jesus Christ, we get much more than just a *feeling* of peace; we begin a real, eternal *relationship* with God. Instead of being under wrath and subject to judgment, the believer is accepted by God, becomes the object of His delight, and is looked upon as righteous before Him. Can you say, “I have peace with God”?

Are you at peace?

“He is our Peace” (Ephesians 2:14). Peace does not come from within ourselves. Peace comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The believer has peace of conscience as to his sins, and peace of heart as to his circumstances. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace” (John 16:33). Therefore, “Acquaint *now* thyself with Him, and be at *peace*” (Job 22:21). *Moments with the Book*



*Happy is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered. Psalm 32: 1*

All men need forgiveness, because all men are sinners. He that does not know this, knows nothing about Christianity. It is the very A B C of Christianity, that a man should know his right place in the sight of God and understand his deserts.

☛ We are ***all great sinners.***

‘There is none righteous, no, not one.’ ‘All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.’ (Rom. 3. 10, 23) Sinners we were born, and sinners we have been all our lives. We take to sin naturally from the very first. No child ever needs schooling and education to teach it to do wrong. No devil, or bad companion, ever leads us into such wickedness as our own hearts.

And ‘the wages of sin is death.’ lost eternally. (Rom. 6. 23) We must either be forgiven, or

☛ We are all guilty sinners in the sight of God.

We have broken His holy law. We have transgressed His precepts. We have not done His will. There is not a commandment in all the ten which does not condemn us.

If we have not broken it in deed we have in word; if we have not broken it in word, we have in thought and imagination - and that continually. Tried by the standard of the fifth chapter of Matthew, there is not one of us that would be acquitted. All the world is ‘guilty before God.’ And ‘as it is appointed unto men once to die, so after this comes the judgment’. We must either be forgiven or perish everlastingly. (Rom. 3. 19; Heb. 9. 27)...

...I ask special attention to this point, for none can be more important. Granting for a moment that you want pardon and forgiveness, what ought you to do? Where will you go? Which way will you turn? Everything hinges on the answer you give to this question.

☛ Will you turn to ***ministers or priests*** and put your trust in them?

They cannot give you pardon: they can only tell you where it is to be found. They can set before you the bread of life; but you yourself must eat it. They can show you the path of peace; but you yourself must walk in it. The Jewish priest had no power to cleanse the leper, but only to declare him cleansed. The Christian minister has no power to forgive sins.

☛ Will you turn to ***sacraments & ordinances***, and trust in them?

They cannot supply you with forgiveness, however diligently you may use them... But they cannot justify the sinner. They cannot put away transgression. You may go to the Lord’s table every Sunday in your life: but unless you look far beyond the sign to the thing signified, you will after all die in your sins.

You may attend a daily service regularly, but if you think to set up a righteousness of your own by it, in the slightest degree, you are only getting further away from God every day.

☛ **Will you trust in your own *works* and *efforts*?**

All your virtues, your good deeds, your prayers and your giving to charity? They will never buy for you an entrance into heaven. They will never pay your debt to God.

They are all imperfect in themselves, and only increase your guilt. There is no merit or worthiness in them at the very best. The Lord Jesus Christ says expressly, 'When you have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants.'

(Luke 17. 10)

☛ **Will you trust in your own *repentance* and *turning over a new leaf*?**

You are very sorry for the past. You hope to do better in the future. You hope God will be merciful. Alas, if you lean on this, you have nothing beneath you but a broken reed! The judge does not pardon the thief because he is sorry for what he did. Today's sorrow will not wipe off the score of yesterday's sins. It is not an ocean of tears that would ever cleanse an uneasy conscience and give it peace.

**PARDON &
FORGIVENESS**

Where then must a man go for pardon?

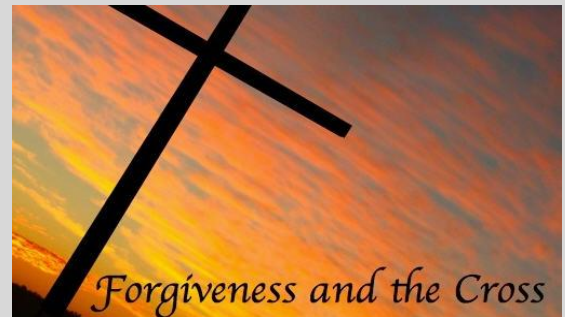
Where is forgiveness found?

There is a way both sure and plain.

That way is simply to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour. It is to cast your soul, with all its sins, unreservedly on Christ - to cease completely from any dependence on your own works or doings, either in whole or in part – rest on:

- **no other work but Christ's work**
- **no other righteousness but Christ's righteousness**
- **no other merit but Christ's merit**
as your ground of hope.

Take this course and you are a pardoned soul. 'To Christ,' says Peter, 'give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.' (Acts 10:43) 'Through this Man,' says Paul at Antioch, 'is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins, and by Him all that believe are justified from all things.' (Acts 13:38) "In Him," writes Paul to the Colossians, "we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins." (Col 1:14) forgiven and reckoned perfectly righteous. His sins are clean gone, and his soul is justified in God's sight, however bad and guilty he may have been.



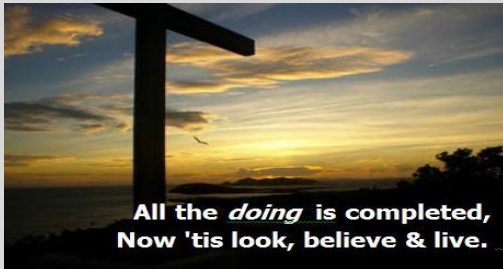
The Lord Jesus Christ, in great love and compassion, has made a full and complete satisfaction for sin, by suffering death in our place upon the cross. There He offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, and allowed the wrath of God, which we deserved, to fall on His own head. For our sins, as our Substitute, He gave Himself, suffered, and died - the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty - that He might deliver us from the curse of a broken law, and provide a complete pardon for all who are willing to receive it.

And by so doing, as Isaiah says - He has *borne* our sins; as John the Baptist says - He has *taken away* sin; as Paul says - He has *purged* our sins and *put away* sin; and as Daniel says - He has - *made an end of sin, and finished transgression.*

(Isaiah 53. 11; John 1. 29; Heb. 1. 3; Heb. 9. 26; Dan. 9. 24)

And now the Lord Jesus Christ is a Prince and a Saviour, to give remission of sins to all who will have it. The keys of death and hell in His hand. The government of the gate of heaven is on His shoulder. He Himself is the door and by Him all that enter in shall be saved.

(Acts 5. 31; Rev. 1. 18; John 10. 9)



Christ, in one word, has purchased a full forgiveness, if we are only willing to receive it. He has done all, paid all, suffered all that was needful to reconcile us to God. He has provided a garment of righteousness to clothe us. He has opened a fountain of living waters to cleanse us. He has removed every barrier between us and God the Father, taken every obstacle out of the way, and made a road by which the vilest may return. And things are now ready, and the sinner has only to believe and be saved, to eat and be satisfied, to ask and receive, to wash and be clean.

And faith, simple faith, is the only thing required, in order that you and I may be forgiven. That we will come by faith to Jesus as sinners with our sins

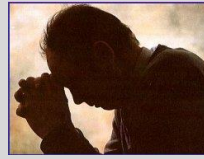
- **trust in Him**
- **rest on Him**
- **lean on Him**
- **confide in Him**
- **commit your soul to Him**
- **forsake all other hope**
- **cleave only to Him**

This is all and everything that God asks for.

Let a man only do this, and he shall be saved. His iniquities shall be found completely pardoned, and his transgressions entirely taken away. Every man and woman that so trusts is wholly forgiven, and reckoned perfectly righteous. His sins are clean gone, and his soul is justified in God's sight, however bad and guilty he may have been.

J.C Ryle (Abridged)

POINT TO PONDER



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