

# BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

## E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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Issue: 1161

December 2015



true  
peace

Perhaps true peace seems impossible amid the stress of financial decisions, the flurry of the holiday season, and the pressures of gift-buying.

Maybe the thought of finding true, inner peace seems hopeless when everything is so busy and stressful. As hopeless as it may seem, the Bible tells us how to gain peace. It also tells us what stands in the way of gaining true peace.

### NO PEACE

God says twice, "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21). You may say, "But I am not wicked!" You are probably a very nice person. Perhaps you try to read and follow the Bible. You may be a member of a local church. Perhaps you were baptized as a child. These are all good things, but they do not relieve your lack of peace, because they do not cure your sin problem. The Bible says, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

God says, "We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6).

We are ALL wicked in God's sight and thus we have no peace.

We lack peace because our sin separates us from God.

"Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).

If not dealt with, your sin will lead you to eternal damnation when you die. "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

### THE GIVER OF PEACE

"Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—the Prince of PEACE. Peace with God can only come through humble trust in Jesus.

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

Because we cannot solve our sin problem, Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, came to earth to take the punishment for our sin. He lived a perfect life and died for you.

**Romans 5:8** says, "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

**1 Peter 3:18** states, "Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."

**1 Corinthians 15:3, 4** explains, "how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day." Christ died and rose again for YOU! You can have eternal life and true peace through Him.

## WILL YOU ACCEPT THE GIFT?

Christmas is also a time of gift-giving. A true gift is one that comes with no strings attached. It is given out of love. Eternal life is a gift, not something that you can purchase or earn. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast"

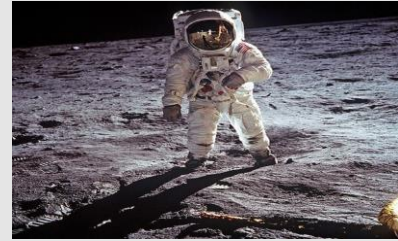
(Ephesians 2:8, 9). God offers you His free gift of salvation. Salvation is available to you if you are willing to humbly acknowledge your sinful condition before God (repent) and, in your heart, turn from sin to Christ. Mark 1:15 says, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." Romans 10:9, 13 says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Will you humbly accept the gift of salvation this Christmas season? In the best words you know how, tell Jesus that you are sorry for your sin and ask Him to save you. If you willingly turn to Him, Jesus promises His true and lasting peace to comfort your soul. "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14:27).

*Moments with the Book*



You may receive Christ, oh, so freely! If salvation were to be bought—if it were to be earned—woe would be unto you! But being a Gift, nothing is more free! The poorest man in the world may accept a gift. A trembling hand may receive a gift. He that is a thief and a robber, yes, a murderer, doomed to die, may accept a gift, if it comes not of merit, or by way of reward, but entirely of the generosity of the bestower. Oh, what a glorious thing it is that you and I and all of us may receive God's unspeakable Gift! C.H. Spurgeon



On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong, the astronaut, put his left foot down on the moon's desolate Sea of Tranquility and declared '*That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.*' Millions around the world watched in amazement as this historic event unfolded.

However, almost 2000 years ago a much greater event took place. John the Apostle records it in John 1:14, '*And the Word became flesh and pitched His tent among us and we beheld His glory the glory of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth.*' 1 Timothy 3:16 says, '*... God was manifested in the flesh...*'

This astounding fact was announced by heaven itself. 'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord.' (Luke 2:11).



He came, out from God, a gift from the Father's heart. Descending from the throne high and lifted up, He laid aside the garments of His majesty. The train of that robe of light filled the heavenly sanctuary with its radiance. Stepping down from the infinities of uncreated light, He passed through the creature realms of wondering angels, taking nothing of them. Still downward He came to one of the billions of His galaxies which He Himself had made.

There His destination hung, a speck of sunlit stardust, so insignificant among gigantic suns and island universes that only He could find it, for in the eternal purposes of love and grace He had placed it there as a paradise for His creature man.



**He arrived on the dark side of the planet, for it was night where He appeared.**

Yet that darkness must give way and bow to the Effulgence of God. The night sky blazed with glory.

A multitude of angels heralded God's praise in the heavens and man's privilege and prospects on earth. Blessed creatures indeed all they of the human race!

The Son of God had come to earth to bring heaven into their hearts and them into heaven at last. Though full well He knew the price His love would pay to make it so.

What a story of the glory of God on earth, walking, working, weeping, among His creatures.

Oh, how they would welcome this visitor of love and sweetness to this sordid world of tears and pain that man had made out of the paradise of God! Ah, sad and shameful is the record.

### **He came, but there was no room for Him.**

- They wanted His bread in their mouths but not His beneficent rule in their hearts.
- They wanted His healing powers but not His holy claims.
- They were filled with wonder at His grace but filled with wrath at His truth.

At last, their hatred exceeded. They must find Him and destroy Him. His radiance had exposed their sins.

Their insect consciences scurried for cover. They mocked at His meekness and scorned His compassion for sinners. They had made their decision. The darkness they loved and therefore the light they must extinguish.



Gethsemane! So they found Him at the garden of the oil press . . . on the dark side of the planet. In the night He had prayed in agony till His sweat like great blood-drops fell to the ground. He had seen what none else but God could see. He had surveyed "the place afar off" where none else but He would go, and He bowed to the Father's will. He stood before their rabble mob, Holiness personified.

Love was His banner and compassion the beating of His heart, even for those who hated Him without a cause. His body bathed in the sweat of His anguish and the traitor's kiss still wet upon His cheek, they led Him away to the judgment of men.

### **Gabbatha!**

The soldiers gathered round in raucous glee.

"A King?" they mocked, "Then anoint Him" and they spat in His lovely face.

"A King? Then give Him a robe," and they threw around His bleeding back a soldier's cloak.

"A King? Then give Him a staff of authority" and they put a brittle reed into His hand.

"A King? Then give Him a crown" and they pressed a crown of thorns upon His blessed brow.

"A King? Then He must have a throne," and they took Him to Golgotha. There they nailed Him through His hands and feet to the only throne men ever gave Him.

Yet out of this race of sinners they have come by the millions. From habitations of cruelty and homes of respectability, from hell-holes of ignorance and halls of learning. Still they come! His cross, His suffering love, has won their hearts.



His beauty has captured their affections. He is to them the Altogether Lovely One. They are His and He is theirs by eternal decree. Is it any wonder that, by faith, they gather around Him week by week and show forth His death, remembering with sweetest sadness the giving of His body and the shedding of His precious blood and looking forward "till He come"? J. Boyd Nicholson Sr.

## The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the World.

(1 John 4:14)



*Born among cattle in Bethlehem's stall,  
Infant so tiny yet upholding all.  
Low at His feet the shepherds did fall,  
Worshipping Jesus - Lord over all!*

*Brought up in Nazareth rejected to be,  
Mixing with sinners - yet holy was He.  
Despised and rejected yet loving me,  
Soon to be taken and nailed to a tree.*

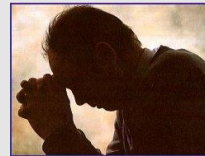
*Outside the walls of Jerusalem we see,  
Infinite mercy - God's love to me.  
Gone are His garments - naked was He,  
Soon in the darkness forsaken for me.*

*Looking for comfort yet finding none,  
None to take pity the suffering one.  
Dying alone to put away sin,  
Opened the portals that all may go in.*

*Tenderly taken from Golgotha's tree,  
Led in the tomb of Joseph we see.  
The suffering is ended the victory is won,  
By the Lord Jesus - God's only Son.*

*Highly exalted He sits on the throne,  
Bearing a name no other can own.  
Sit on my right hand the Father did say,  
Glorified me, each step of the way.*

### POINT TO PONDER



**Crown Him! Crown Him!  
Lord of all.**

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