

No Peace - cont.

- Spiritual pacifism – not wanting to be militant and confront sin in the local church (1 Corinthians 5:1ff).
- Fellowshiping error – getting along with those in sin and error without demanding that people repent (2 Corinthians 10:5; Ephesians 5:11; 2 John 11).

Today, some preachers and audiences will not expose error, others will fellowship error, and some will even aid and support error.

In contrast to all of this, some preachers and seekers in Bible times and today, are looking for true peace. There is a peace that is true, right, and good. True peace will come about in our lives when sin is removed from our lives by the blood of Jesus (Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:14). True peace will also come when God's message in the Bible is followed (Acts 9:31; Ephesians 6:15; Galatians 5:22; 6:16; 2 Peter 1:2).

Brethren, when we seek to please God and not man, we will find true peace in our life. Don't be fooled by false preachers who preach a false message of a false peace.

- Chris Reeves -

- Word of the Week -

“Longing” (Gr. ἐπιπόθησις) refers to an earnest desire, great affection, or strong yearning for someone or something. The Corinthian brethren had an earnest desire for Paul and for clearing up their sin (2 Corinthians 7:7, 11). Paul had an earnest desire for the Philippian brethren (4:1) and the Roman brethren (Romans 1:11; 15:23). Christians are to have a earnest desire for their resurrected body (2 Corinthians 5:2) and for God's word (1 Peter 2:2). Let's go out this week and have a earnest desire for each other and for what is right.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Peace, Peace, When There Is No Peace

They have healed also the hurt of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace
- Jeremiah 6:14 -

Then said I, Ah, Lord Jehovah! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place
- Jeremiah 14:13 -

Then said I, Ah, Lord Jehovah! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place ... to wit, the prophets of Israel that prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and that see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, says the Lord Jehovah
- Ezekiel 13:10, 16 -

Thus says Jehovah concerning the prophets that make my people to err; that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and who-so puts not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him
- Micah 3:5 -

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 Thessalonians 5:3 -

False prophets in Bible times offered the people “peace” when there was no peace (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; 14:13; Ezekiel 13:10,16; Micah 3:5). They would tell the people to not worry about God’s coming judgment. They told people that they were at “peace”, when in fact they were not. They would do this to gain a following and to discredit the true prophets like Jeremiah, Ezekiel, or Micah.

The preaching of a “peace-when-there-is-no-peace” message caused these false prophets to be popular and it caused the people to have a false sense of hope and security. Some of God’s people and others in Bible times liked to hear a message of peace because it made them feel as if they didn’t need to change anything in their life.

Today, there is much false “peace” being preached in the world and for the same reason. False preachers and teachers want their audiences to like them and they want their audiences to stay in their current, acceptable lifestyles.

Consider today that there are many messages of “peace when there is no peace.” There is the false peace of ...

- Unbelief – denying God, judgment, and truth (Psalm 14:1; John 3:19-20; Romans 1:18-22).

- Ignorance – doing what one feels is right without knowledge of God’s word (Romans 10:2-3; 1 Timothy 1:13).
- Self-satisfaction – feeling at ease and accepting the status quo of the world around us (Acts 24:25).
- Presumption – assuming that God is loving only and will not punish mankind for wrongdoing (Romans 11:22; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Hebrews 10:31; 12:29).
- “Live and let live” – refusing to condemn anyone for what they believe, even if it is wrong (Jeremiah 6:14; compare Matthew 10:34-37).
- Unbalanced preaching – wanting to preach and hear only “positive” sermons (Acts 20:20,27).
- Denominationalism – agreeing on Jesus, but not on church doctrine, and joining the “church of your choice” (Ephesians 4:4-6).
- Unity in diversity – misusing diversity passages to promote unity with sin and error (Romans 14:17,19).

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