

Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace

I. PEACE COMES THROUGH CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ. Christ who knew no sin was made Sin; not a sinner, but Sin, a Sin-offering, a Sacrifice for sin. It was for our sins, and in our stead, that our Lord Jesus was crucified.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23

We are saved from the sin debt, to which by sin we become liable, by laying our sins on Christ. This atonement was made for our sins. And this is the only way of salvation. Our sins were the thorns in Christ's head, the nails in his hands and feet, the spear in his side.

Peace only comes through Christ's Atonement and it allows us to come to God; and the Spirit gives us a heart to come, and the strength to come, and then the grace to serve God acceptably.

II. PEACE RESULTS FROM RECONCILIATION

For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 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; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. Ephesians 2:14-17

Reconciliation is God's justice being satisfied, so that He can, in consistency with His own nature, be favorable toward sinners. Justice demands the punishment of sinners. The death of Christ satisfies justice, and so reconciles God to us. This reconciliation makes enables God to pardon and save us. Reconciliation originates with God, and He has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;. 2 Corinthians 5:18

We are reconciled to God:

1. By God in Christ - 2 Corinthians 5:19-21
2. By Christ as High Priest - Hebrews 2:17
3. By the death of Christ - Romans 5:10, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 1:21-22
4. By the blood of Christ - Ephesians 2:13, Colossians 1:20

Reconciliation refers not to any change in our disposition toward God, but to God himself, as the party reconciled.

III. PEACE IS A PRODUCT OF JUSTIFICATION

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

Justification is a judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ, and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law. Justification declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied in respect of the justified. It is the act of a judge and not of a sovereign. The law is not relaxed or set aside, but is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense; and so the person justified is declared to be entitled to all the advantages and rewards arising from perfect obedience to the law.

A blessed change takes place in the sinner's life, when he becomes a true believer, whatever he has been, as stated in the Scripture above, being justified by faith he has peace with God. The holy, righteous God, cannot be at peace with a sinner, while under the guilt of sin. Justification takes away the guilt, and so makes way for peace. This is through our Lord Jesus Christ; He is the great Peace-maker, the Mediator between God and man.

IV. PEACE IS SECURED BY FAITH

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Isaiah 26:3

The sole condition on which this righteousness is imputed or credited to the believer is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Faith is the only "condition," not because it possesses any merit, but because it is the way, the only way by which the soul receives Christ and his righteousness.

Trust in the Lord for that peace, that portion, which will be for ever. Whatever we trust to the world for, it will last only for a moment; but those who trust in God shall not only find in him, but shall receive from him, strength that will carry them to that blessedness which is for ever. Let us then acknowledge him in all our ways, and rely on him in all trials.

V. BELIEVERS SHOULD LIVE IN PEACE AND PURSUE IT

Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.. 2 Corinthians 13:11

And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thessalonians 5:13

God is the Author of peace and Lover of concord; he loves us, and is willing to be at peace with us. Believers should be at peace among themselves, doing all they can to remain in one accord. We must bear and forbear. We must be long-suffering, and keep down anger, and this to all men. Whatever man does to us, we must do good to them. But in order to have peace we must not compromise or wink at sin.