

14 6 20

Peace – Pt 1 – Meaning of peace & God is the Lord of peace

Today we begin a new topic – Peace. We establish from the scriptures that (1) peace is good cheer, (2) peace is rest, (3) peace is the opposite to division, and (4) peace is the opposite to confusion.

When we turn to the Greek, the words translated from Greek to the English word “peace” are also translated – one, quiet, quietness, and rest.

According to the scriptures –

1. Peace is good cheer

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer...” (Jn.16: 33).

“But...Jesus spake...saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid” (Matt.14:27).

“Jesus seeing their faith said...be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee” (Matt.9:2).

2. Peace is rest

“He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness” (Is.57: 2).

3. Peace is the opposite to division

“Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division” (Lk.12: 51).

4. Peace is the opposite to confusion

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints” (1 Cor 14:33).

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

- i) The flesh and spirit of a person war against each other.
- ii) If a Christian marries a Roman Catholic the couple will be in division.
- iii) There are US states with a mindset of hate – the Klu Kluk Klan & violence results.

Question to think about.

- a) What are the common denominators in our three examples? and
- b) what is the solution?

Our answer from the scriptures.

a) The common denominators are confusion, division, no good cheer, nor rest, nor peace.

b) Broadly speaking – the solution is God, the author of peace (1 Cor 14:33).

More specifically in our three examples the solution is –

- i) When a Christian mortifies “the deeds of the body we live” (Rom.8: 13), and
- ii) when the RC is converted there is no division nor confusion about truth, and
- iii) when hatred is replaced with love, and un-forgiveness with forgiveness then we will not be “swallowed up with overmuch sorrow” (2 Cor.2: 7).

Let us remember that our effectiveness in the battle is first based on the peace we have in our relationship with the Lord, which is based on our ability to listen to, and be led by, His Holy Spirit, His “still small voice” (1 kgs.19: 12), then our effectiveness is based on the peace we have in our families, and with our brethren. Amen!