FINDING PEACE WITH GOD!

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the <u>King James Version</u>; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

GOD IS A GOD OF PEACE: -

Romans 15:33: - "Now the God of peace [be] with you all. Amen."

Romans 16:20: - "And **the God of peace** shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen."

<u>Philippians 4:9: -</u> "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and **the God of peace** shall be with you."

<u>1 Thessalonians 5:23:</u> - "And **the very God of peace** sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

<u>Hebrews 13:20 & 21: -</u> "**Now the God of peace,** that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen."

The Lord gives us peace.

<u>Numbers 6:24 - 26: -</u> "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: **The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.**"

Romans 1:7: - "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.**"

Christ is called the Prince of Peace.

<u>Isaiah 9:6 & 7: -</u> "For 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.** Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

- God is the Author of peace.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:33: "For **God is** not **[the author]** of confusion, but **of peace**, as in all churches of the saints."
- Christ promised to give his followers peace in this troubled world.
 <u>John 14:27: -</u> "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."

<u>John 16:33:</u> "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; I have overcome the world."

Peace is to be found through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, it is called "the gospel of peace".

<u>Isaiah 52:7: -</u> "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, **that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation;** that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!"

Acts 10:36: - "The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, **preaching peace by Jesus Christ:** (he is Lord of all:)"

Ephesians 6:15: - "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

The wounds that Christ suffered for us upon the cross were for our peace. Through Jesus' death upon the cross, he brought the Jew and Gentile together into one body, thus making peace.
<u>Isaiah 53:4 & 5: -</u> "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 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."

Ephesians 2:13 - 17: - "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 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."

We find peace through the blood of Christ's cross.

<u>Colossians 1:20: -</u> "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven."

FORGIVENESS BRINGS PEACE WITH GOD: -

- The woman who had been a grievous sinner, whose sins Jesus forgave, Jesus assured her to go away in peace.
 - <u>Luke 7:47 50: -</u> "Wherefore I say unto thee, **Her sins, which are many, are forgiven;** for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little. And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.** And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? **And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.**"
- When we experience justification by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1: - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- If we keep our minds focussed on the Lord and trust in him, he will keep us in perfect peace.

<u>Isaiah 26:3: -</u> "Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee."

- Peace is included among the fruits of the Spirit.
 Galatians 5:22 & 23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
- Believing in Christ will bring joy and peace.
 <u>Romans 15:13: -</u> "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

FINDING PEACE WITH GOD BY WALKING IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS LAW: -

Isaiah 48:22: - "There is] no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked."

Isaiah 57:21: - "[There is] no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

The Psalmist defines the wicked as those who have forsaken God's Law, and because the wicked have forsaken God's Law, they have no peace.

Psalms 119:53: - "Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law."

The prophet Isaiah reinforces this teaching in the following passage. If rebellious Israel had hearkened to God's Commandments, then their peace would have been like the tranquillity of a river.

<u>Isaiah 48:17 & 18: -</u> "Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I [am] the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way [that] thou shouldest go. **O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."**

Whereas, the contrast is equally true, that those who love God's Law have great peace with their Maker. Psalms 119:165: - "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

The keeping of God's Law will give a long life and peace.

<u>Proverbs 3:1 & 2: -</u> "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

Those who are of the carnal mindset are not able to be subject to or obedient to the Law of God, and hence they are not able to find peace with their Maker. Death is all that awaits them. Whereas those who are of the mindset of the Spirit will have the righteousness of God's Law fulfilled in their lives, and will find peace and life.

Romans 8:3 - 8: - "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

Loving the Lord and loving his Law is demonstrated by our obedience to his Commandments.

<u>Exodus 20:4 - 6: -</u> "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; **And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**"

<u>Deuteronomy 7:9: -</u> "Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he [is] God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations."

Nehemiah 1:5: - "And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments."

<u>Daniel 9:4: -</u> "And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, **keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments."**

John 14:15: - "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

peace, and pursue it."

- <u>1 John 5:2 & 3: -</u> "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
- If we desire life, we should depart from evil and do good, and seek peace and pursue it. This teaching is found in both Testaments of the Bible.
 Psalms 34:12 14: "What man [is he that] desireth life, [and] loveth [many] days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek

1 Peter 3:10 & 11: - "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and

his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."

- On the Day of Judgment, those who have done good will find eternal life and peace. Romans 2:6 - 11: - "Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."
- The work of righteousness brings peace and assurance forever.

 <u>Isaiah 32:17: -</u> "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

All of God's Commandments ARE Righteousness.

Psalms 119:172: - "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments [are] righteousness."

Those people who have God's Law within their hearts **KNOW** Righteousness.

<u>Isaiah 51:6 & 7: -</u> "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. **Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart [is] my law;** fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings."

A righteous person does righteousness.

<u>1 John 3:7:</u> - "Little children, let no man deceive you: **he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."**

The following passage gives us a concrete Biblical example of righteous people – the parents of John the Baptist were both righteous before the Lord, keeping all of God's Commandments <u>blamelessly.</u>
<u>Luke 1:5 & 6: -</u> "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth. **And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**"

- Because a person is obedient to God's Law of Ten Commandments as the parents of John the Baptist were, they would have peace and assurance with their Maker.
- The ultimate end of the perfect and upright man is peace.
 <u>Psalms 37:37: "Mark the perfect [man]</u>, and behold the upright: for the end of [that] man [is] peace."
- We need to follow after the things that help us to live at peace with all people.
 Romans 12:18: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
 - <u>2 Corinthians 13:11: -</u> "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."
 - Hebrews 12:14: "Follow peace with all [men], and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."
- We need to so live our lives that when the Lord comes again, we can be found spotless and blameless in character so that we can be at peace in that time.
 2 Peter 3:14: "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS BOUND UP IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE AND JOY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT: -

ROMANS 14:17: - "FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT MEAT AND DRINK; BUT RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND PEACE, AND JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST."