

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Isaiah 9:6,7

“⁶For unto us Child is born, unto us 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**. ⁷Of 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” (Isa. 9:6,7).

The Translation of The Septuagint Rendering of The Old Testament

“⁶Since unto-us Educable-Child [aor. pass.]was-being-beggotten, unto-us Son [aor. pass.]was-given: the principality of-Whom became upon the shoulder of-His: and the name of-His is-being-called Messenger-of-Great Counsel, for I-shall-bring peace upon the rulers[magistrates] and health to-Him. ⁷The principality of-His great!^[nom. of excl.] and to-the Peace of-His there-is no limit; upon the throne of-David and The Kingdom of-His, to-set-straight and to-establish [^{loc. ev}]in-judgment and [^{loc. ev}]in-righteousness from the now even /forever. The zeal of-The **LORD** of-Hosts shall-do this” (Isa.9:6,7LXX APT).

Part 14

Introduction:

We have been studying the seven aspects of the second of six facts about The Lord Jesus Christ as to **Who The Prince of Peace Is**. These are: **I. What is Peace; II. Who The Prince of Peace Is; III. What He Came To Do; IV. When He Came; V. Where He Now Is; VI. When He Comes Again**. In the last thirteen lessons we completed the first fact, **What is Peace** and have completed four aspects of the second fact concerning this. For several weeks we have been considering the seven aspects depicting **The Lord Jesus Christ as: A. The Person of Peace; B. The Possessor of Peace; C. The Personification of Peace; and D. The Producer of Peace** and have been examining the fifth aspect.

E. The Procurer of Peace.

So far we considered the four aspects regarding The Lord Jesus Christ as Procurer of Perfect Peace: 1. **He had been In Possession of Perfect Peace with The Father and The Holy Spirit** in Eternity past. 2. **He Obtained Peace by Means of Purchase** and included three facts concerning the purchase of Eternal Ransoming: The Price Paid; The Ransom and Purchase Payment; and The Purpose for Paying the Ransom.

- (1) The Prince of Peace Produced Peace by destroying the middle wall of partition; even The Law of Commandments that separated the enemies.
- (2) He Negated the Enmity both Godward and manward and Completely Reconciled both Together into Union in One Body.
- (3) He Pronounced Glad Tidings of Peace to His Disciples.
- (4) He Prescribed Peace by Commanding all His Disciples by giving them two more commandments to obey, each of which was in two parts.
 - (A) The First Part of The Third Commandment is: Journey unto all The World and Persistently Proclaim The Gospel of Peace (Mk. 16:14,15).

From our analysis of the Greek grammar of this text, we learned that this proclamation of The Gospel is to be heard by every human being everywhere in the world that the disciple goes. Thus The Gospel of Peace is to be proclaimed again and again successively, one after another repeatedly. It is precisely translated, “When journeying &you-as-a-herald-are-successively-to-proclaim-at-once The Gospel to every creature!” (Mk. 16:15 APT).

- (B) The Second Part of the Third Commandment is: As You Journey Disciple People of all the Nations (Mt. 28:16,17,19a).

This responsibility that Jesus laid upon His disciples is what He

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intended to take place all the time that they are journeying into the entire world. It is what was to be applied when and to those who respond to their proclamation of The Gospel of Peace. It is commanded that All disciples are not just to proclaim The Gospel of Peace, but all are commanded also to make disciples of those who respond to that proclamation by training the babes unto full spiritual maturity.

In his First Epistle John expressed three of the four stages of spiritual maturity from regeneration as babes to maturity as fathers or elderly men which he addressed to his spiritual children (1 Jn. 2:13-18). These are: First stage, **βρέφος** (bréhfohs) meaning a new-born child; while the second stage is **παῖς** (país), without the article means 'educable child.' It also is used to indicate 'a disciple in relation to the one discipling.' The third and fourth stages of maturity of those to whom he is addressing are **νεανίσκοι** (neahnéskoi) 'young men,' and **πατέρες** (patéhrehhs) 'fathers' or 'elderly men.' These last three stages are those people whom John has disciplined.

However since newborn babes need to be encouraged and taught to suckle the mother's milk, so too newly born again ones of all physical ages, from teenage through adulthood, need to be taught and encouraged to drink the milk of The God's Word in order to grow (1 Pet. 2:2). This is where The Lord's disciples begin to fulfill His third commandment.

Therefore we, disciples are not finished fulfilling our responsibility until those we lead to conversion become dear children of God and are at least through the second stage of spiritual maturity. At this time they know how to proclaim the Gospel individually, lead people to Salvation, and disciple others through the second stage of maturity. Then and **only then** are they to continue journeying to proclaim The Gospel of Peace in all the world. It is a spiritual tragedy to stop short of this goal expressed by The Lord Jesus Christ.

- (C) The First Part of the Fourth Commandment is: After discipling those people who have met the qualifications for Peace, then Baptize Those You Have Disciplined in The Name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19b). Baptism is a sign, a seal, a symbol, and indicates spiritual Circumcision.
- (a) A sign is that by which a person or a thing is distinguished from others and is known. Baptism indicates that the participant has experienced Repentance, The God's Forgiveness of Sins, Freedom from Bondage to Sin, Peace, Redemption, and Justification by committed trust which results in Relationship to The Christ and in union with Him and God The Father as sons and members of His body, and resurrected with Him.
- (b) A Seal is a distinctive mark of identification and of belonging to The Lord Jesus Christ and security in Him. The Holy Spirit seals the disciple in order to keep the disciple from being snatched out of His hand. Baptism proves, **confirms**, and authenticates or attests beyond doubt that this disciple is truly The Lord Jesus Christ's. Baptism is an impression indicating ownership and finally it is a seal that ratifies the acceptance of The New Covenant on the part of the disciple in the same way that Abraham and his offspring ratified their acceptance of The Old Covenant (Rom. 4:11).
- (c) A Symbol represents what three actions invisibly and inwardly typify and demonstrate what has invisibly occurred: Death; Burial and Planting; Resurrection and New Life; and Circumcision.
- Baptism symbolizes that the obedient disciple is identified with

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His Death which was Spiritual as well as physical in that He bore the Eternal Judgment. Unless we identify with The Lord Jesus Christ and His Death so that change takes place and the trusting sinner has died to self, Sin, and the world, any baptism is futile and worthless because what baptism truly represents as taking place in that person's life, is not true and therefore is not acceptable to The Triune God.

Baptism symbolizes Burial of the old sinful life of slavery to Sin and Satan with its life-style and Planting. Spiritually humans must follow the same process: firstly, die to self, the world, and Satan and be buried by being baptized by immersion.

Baptism symbolizes Resurrection and New Life. The God accounts that the baptizee has paid the penalty for his Sin and sins with The Lord Jesus Christ when He paid that penalty on Calvary's cross in A.D. 33. In addition we are raised into New Absolute Life when rising up out of the watery burial of baptism because we are being obedient to The New Covenant and New Commandments which He gave to all His obedient disciples. Since being raised out of dead ones into a New Absolute Life at such a great cost to The Lord Jesus Christ, we are expected to walk in this New Life so that we display union with The Lord Jesus Christ in our daily walk even as He walked after His Resurrection.

Baptism symbolizes spiritual Circumcision (Col. 2:11,12 APT). True Scriptural Baptism indicates that circumcision not made with human hands but by the operation of the effectual working of God The Father by means of stripping off from the body the sins of the flesh accumulated from the previous lifetime of serving as a bondsman to Satan.

If these inward actions listed above have not been taught, taken place, and are demonstrated in the life **first**, baptism should not take place until they do. It is a grave misunderstanding to think that they will take place immediately or shortly after baptism.

As a result of these facts we are to grow by means of discipleship; and then to bear fruit by proclaiming The Gospel and discipling others.

(D) The Second Part of the Fourth Commandment is: **Congregate and Repeatedly Publicly** (in assembly) **Teach** the Disciples that have been Baptized (Mt. 28:20).

There are three aspects to this second part of The Lord Jesus Christ's fourth commandment.

(a) The Command to Teach.

To fulfill this part of the fourth commandment requires the gathering of disciples together repeatedly or in theological terms, congregating disciplined people to come together repeatedly and teach them by public address repeatedly or again and again. This is precisely what The Lord Jesus commanded His disciples to do in addition to personally discipling them.

(b) The Content to Teach

The content of what is to be publicly repeatedly taught was **not** left up to the obedient disciples to decide what they should teach, but is limited to what The Lord Jesus Himself previously taught them while in His three year ministry before being crucified. Also included is what He taught since His Resurrection for the forty days before ascending and what The Holy Spirit has expanded upon since Pentecost (Jn. 14:25). **Not just** the so-called simple Gospel, but The

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Entire Gospel as presented throughout The New Testament with fourteen different titles {cf. Website: Charts} and referred to twice by Paul as The Gospel of Peace (Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15).

(c) The Comprehensiveness of The Command.

Not only are we to keep watchfully secure that we fulfill all the things that The Lord Jesus Christ taught, but we are to teach our disciples and the congregation with which we gather together, to keep and teach **All The Things** that He taught, especially including The Four New Commandments. These are: 1 Love one another; 2 Remember Him weekly at His Supper with bread and produce of the vine; 3 Proclaim The Gospel to every one individually in all the world and Disciple those who respond; and 4. publicly congregate together and repeatedly teach by public address the disciplined people successively or again and again.

(E) Finally, **The Promise of His** is to be with us all the days until He Comes Again.

The Consummation of the Age of Grace is indicated by the glorious appearance of The Lord Jesus Christ in the air to receive His saints who make up His Bride, His Church for whom He Died, was resurrected and ascended into Heaven to become their Great High Priest and Bridegroom. This event consummates The Age of Grace and introduces The Resumption of the preaching of the Gospel of The Kingdom of Heaven (Mt. 3:2; 4:17; 24:14; Mk. 1:15) in anticipation of and preparation for The Millennial Reign of The Christ, The King of Kings and Lord of lords.

3. As A Result of His Purchase He Achieved Peace for All Humans and All Things in Heaven and upon Earth.

After making Peace by applying His blood on the Mercyseat in Heaven, He accomplished two things.

- a. He Completely Reconciled **all things** upon Earth and in Heaven. Thus He made Peace between the completely alienated enemies of The God and alienated from the hope of The Gospel.
- b. He justified by means of His Blood which He has applied to the Mercyseat and saved them from The Anger that is planned to be vented upon all sinners and Satan and his angels.

4. He Manages, Cares for or Looks after The Peace that He Achieved.

There are seven ways in which The Prince of Peace Procures and Preserves Peace: a. He sends Proclaimers of The Gospel of Peace to all the world; b. He Protects in Peace disciple-saints who meet His Conditions for Peace; c. His Peace Regulates (Judges) in Disagreements between disciples to Insure Peace. d. He Sanctifies to the fullest extent those disciples who Fully Appropriate His Peace; e. He Shods the Feet of Those who go; f. He Imparts Peace to His Disciples in All Circumstances; and g. He Equips His disciples to Perform His will.

- a. He sends Proclaimers of The Gospel of Peace who hear and heed His command to carry and Proclaim The Evangel to all the world.

Many who claim to belong to The Lord Jesus Christ willingly carry The Evangel of Peace with them, **but** never get to proclaim It. Not preach It, but proclaim or announce It where ever they go, as He commanded. How can anyone make any substitution to His Teachings in the light of His command to all His disciples? How serious These Commandments are! Many proclaim an abbreviated version of The Whole Gospel including all four New Commandments that The Lord Jesus gave to His disciples to teach other younger disciples to

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persistently keep watchfully secure all His Commandments. If a proper and full explanation of these Commandments is omitted in the proclamation, it is a false gospel that is proclaimed to Satan's delight, giving false hope to its responders.

As in the case of Isaiah and the call for proclaimers of The God's proclamation in his day. When he saw The Lord in Heaven and heard His voice asking the question, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" He responded, "Here am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8). So it is today! The God puts out the call for proclaimers of His Word to all the world. But not everyone responds. Only those who respond having trained as disciples and heard His call can go forth in faith and confidence, knowing that they heard His call and therefore He will guide step by step **and** provide all one's needs, but not the wants. There are many who respond to a fleshly desire to travel somewhere in the world without being disciplined and without being called specifically by The God. Perhaps they even have some theological education which is far different from discipleship training and is not required for proclamation of The Gospel of Peace!

I remember my own experience sixty seven years ago. I had been song leader for a Youth Group that met on Saturday nights. One night a missionary to China on furlough challenged us to seek The God's Will for our lives. He encouraged us to read through The Bible in a year, five chapters of The Word of The God every day, three chapters from The Old Testament in the morning at the start of the day and two chapters from The New Testament in the evening and ask The God to show me what He wanted me to do for Him. What a blessing this turned out to be!

It is absolutely necessary to be reading in the Word of God daily in order for The Holy Spirit to speak to us. For "Without The Written Word of The God The Holy Spirit is mute! And without The Holy Spirit of The God, The Written Word of The God is Powerless" and could not be Written. But with The Holy Spirit, The Word of The God is powerful! It is through The Written Word being read and proclaimed that The Holy Spirit speaks to hearts. During those days I was being disciplined by a dear godly older immigrant from Germany such as he was able to accomplish by laying down a Biblical foundation to proclaim The Gospel of Peace.

Later after graduation from High School, I traveled to work by rail to The Philco Radio Corporation in North Philadelphia. On the way I read my vest pocket New Testament for forty-five minutes in the trolley car. I had finished reading in Acts 4 the day before. When I opened my Testament, my eyes fell on chapter 5. So I started to read there. After a few verses I realized it was not Acts 5 but Luke 5. I thought that The God must have directed me to read here for a reason. So I started again and read more carefully, "Launch out into the deep! And let down your nets for a draught" (Lk. 5:4). In a flash, I saw in my mind's eye the billions of people in the Far East going into Hell Fire without hearing The Gospel of Peace. I knew that The God was speaking to me to go and carry and proclaim That Gospel.

When I got to work I had difficulty waiting for lunch time. Daily I met for lunch to eat with a fellow worker, a brother in Christ. I shared with him my experience in the trolley. Immediately he responded, What are you going to do? You cannot go without training! I thought of going to Bible School. And the events that came to pass in the next three years studying The Word of God proved that The

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Holy Spirit was leading and preparing me to go to proclaim The Gospel of Peace by means of a circuitous route.

But through all the Biblical Education I had, I still had not been taught how to properly disciple people, nor had I been taught the stages of maturity for which I had been searching. After nine years of church planting, I was still searching. Then The Lord opened the way for me to spend some time in Jamaica, where I began to realize the desperate need to lay out the stages of maturity and began to author my first manual on the first stage of discipleship, How to Mature in Christ, Babes. After a few years I completed the Second Stage, How to Mature in Christ, Little Children.

By this time I was working on my Doctorate of Ministries while church planting in Australia. The Lord provided a professor of Educational Planning, while in addition to Church Planting in Australia, A Biblical Seminary and Evening Bible Institute had been established in which I was teaching. During the interaction with my professor by correspondence I mentioned The two books or manuals covering those first two stages of discipleship which were requested to be placed in the Billy Graham Library in Illinois.

Therefore in this way my wife and I finally got to the Far East but not China yet. However I did get to China after retiring from the Australian field. I spent six weeks of discipleship and teaching in Hainan. So it was a roundabout way that the original call to proclaim The Gospel of Peace to The Far East was fulfilled after sixty years of training. Now not everyone shall have such training experience to fulfill the great commission. But remember The God is Faithful and shall fulfill His Word if we are faithful to Him and seek to fulfill His call where ever you are.

Now we shall resume our study of the last six of the seven ways that The Prince of Peace Procures and Preserves Peace.

b. He Protects in Peace disciple-saints who meet His Conditions for Peace (Phil. 4:7-9).

“⁷And The Peace of The God, ^{namely} the-one[^] surpassing-all comprehension, shall-protect-as-by-a-garrison the-hearts-of-yours[&] and the thoughts^[concepts] of-yours[&] ^[evw/dat.]in-union-with-Christ Jesus. ⁸Furthermore, O-brothers, as-many-things-as are: true[~], as-many-things-as gravely-dignified[~], as-many-things-as righteous[~], as-many-things-as pure[~], as-many-things-as lovely[~] ^[attracting-fondness-to-the-face-of], as-many-things-as commending[~] ^[giving-complimentary-approval] if (and-it-is-true) any virtue^[moral-excellence, standard-of-living-that-conforms-to-the-character-of The Christ], and if (and-it-is-true) any acclamation ^[favorable-expression-of-hearty-approval], persistently-reckon with-reference-to these-things! ⁹What-things both [&]you-learned-by-practice^[to be trained intimately as a disciple] and [&]you-accepted-alongside^[with-the-mind] and [&]you-heard and [&]you-beheld ^[loc. ev]in-me, persistently-practice these-things-! And The God of-The Peace shall-be ^[in co.]with you[&]” (Phil. 4:7-9 APT).

The Greek word translated “shall-protect-as-by-a-garrison” is *φρουρήσει* (frouáryseh-ee), a future indicative verb which means “it shall protectively securely guard as by a garrison of military soldiers” (cf. Moulton and Milligan, p. 677). Paul used a familiar and strong term to illustrate the protection that persistently prevails for the obedient disciple-saints by means of The Peace of The God. Philippi was a walled Roman colony whose citizens enjoyed all the same privileges and protection as the most powerful world empire of that time provided for those residing in Rome. Any time a Philippian resident would look up to the top of the wall he or she was assured of peace by noting the sentinel soldiers armed and pacing back and forth,

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guarding the city to protect it from invasion, disturbance, or attack. Note three points: the promise and two imperative charges that Paul gave to the Philippian disciple-saints which apply equally as much to present day disciple-saints

Firstly, The disciple-saints are promised and assured of this protection of their hearts and thoughts by looking up to The God and His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ to receive the blessed assurance of His Protecting Peace from disturbance, temptation, or attack from Satan, his emissaries, or his bondslaves (4:7).

Secondly, we are to focus on and ‘persistently-reckon’ as many things as are true, ‘gravely-dignified,’ righteous, pure, lovely, com-mending or ‘giving-complimentary-approval,’ of ‘moral-excellence’ or ‘meeting-the-standard-of-living-that-conforms-to-the-character-of-The-Christ.’ If what pops up is **not** in accord with any of these stipulations, they are to be disregarded promptly (4:8).

Thirdly, we are to persistently practice the things we intimately learned to practice by discipleship and accepted and beheld in Paul (4:9).

The result of faithfully and fully fulfilling these persistent charges is that The God of The Peace shall be with you! Therefore the opposite also shall be fulfilled by The Lord i.e. if these charges are not fulfilled you shall not have The God of Peace with you. So that discipleship and carefully and fully obeying the four commandments that He gave to His disciples is vital to experience This Perfect Peace persistently!

Surely this charge by Paul when clearly understood from the Greek meanings of the words should cause us to become involved in and practice discipleship intimately with a more mature disciple and then to disciple others whom we lead to commit persistent trust to Christ or who are still babes and need nurturing by discipleship!

We shall break here and suspend the study of the remaining six ways in which The Prince of Peace procures and preserves Peace in the hearts and thoughts of His disciple-saints.

Conclusion: Today in our study of **The Prince of Peace**, we briefly reviewed what we studied in previous lessons concerning **What Is Peace** and **Who The Prince of Peace Is, The Person of Peace; The Producer of Peace and The Procurer of Peace Who Obtained Peace by Means of Purchase**. Then The Lord Jesus Prescribed Peace by Commanding all His Disciples to take ‘The Glad Tidings (Gospel) of Peace’ to all the people of the world and Persistently Proclaim The Gospel of Peace. Then the Second Part of The Third Commandment included discipleship which relates to those who sincerely follow Him and become disciples at least through the first two stages of spiritual growth and learn how to grow and proclaim The Gospel of Peace individually to others on their journey through life. They are to follow up the response to the The Gospel that they proclaimed by discipling them likewise.

The First Part of The Lord’s Fourth Commandment to all His disciples is to baptize them. We noted that baptism is a sign, a seal, and a symbol of death, burial, resurrection, and circumcision. After this they are to be congregated and gathered together for worship, observing The Lord’s Supper weekly, then doctrine, prayer, and fellowship.

The Second Part of the Fourth Commandment is to Congregate and Repeatedly Publicly (in assembly) Teach the Disciples that have been Baptized (Mt. 28:20). There are three aspects to this second part of The Lord Jesus Christ’s fourth commandment.

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- (a) The Command to Teach. This required the gathering of disciples together repeatedly, congregating disciples to come together repeatedly and teach them by public address again and again.
- (b) The Content to Teach. What is to be taught was **not** left up to the obedient disciples to decide for themselves what they should teach, but is limited to what The Lord Jesus Himself previously taught them while in His three year ministry before His Crucifixion and what He taught after His Resurrection for the forty days before ascending; and what The Holy Spirit has expanded upon since Pentecost. **Not just** the so-called simple Gospel, but The Entire Gospel of Peace as presented throughout The New Testament.
- (c) The Comprehensiveness of The Command. Not only are we to keep watchfully secure that we fulfill all the things that The Lord Jesus Christ taught, but we are to teach our disciples and the congregation with which we gather together, to keep and teach **All The Things** that He taught, especially including The Four New Commandments .
- (E) Finally, **The Promise of His** is to be with us all the days until He Comes Again. This event consummates The Age of Grace and introduces the resumption of the preaching of the Gospel of The Kingdom of Heaven in anticipation of and preparation for The Millennial Reign of The Christ, King of Kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 17:12-14; 19:14-16).

Only by persistently completing the process of concessive discipleship can the disciples of The Lord Jesus Christ reach every creature in the entire world with The Good News of The Gospel of Peace through The Lord Jesus Christ. This is exactly the plan that The Lord Jesus laid out for His disciples after His Resurrection-Ascension during the forty days on Earth before He ascended to Heaven to be seated on His Throne alongside His Father. But this plan of reaching every creature individually with The Whole Gospel shall only work if each generation reaches its own generation and the next generation by means of discipleship. Although previous generations have not fulfilled their responsibility, since The Holy Spirit has enabled some of The Lord Jesus Christ's disciple-saints to mature and understand what the original languages (Hebrew and Greek) accurately recorded and to relate what the disciple-saints of the early Church in the first two centuries understood and were guided and led by Him to commute them to the next generation. And then The God saw that they were preserved through the centuries. Therefore we today are without excuse not to fully obey all that The Lord Jesus Christ commanded as He makes it known to us!

Application: What will you begin to do today to be sure you are fulfilling all the conditions for Perfect Peace so that you may experience this Surpassing Peace with The Triune God the rest of your days? **DFW**

For next week: **THE PRINCE OF PEACE: Who He Is** part 15: The Procurer of Peace: His Management (concluded). **Please read and meditate upon:** (Col. 3:15; 1 Thes. 5:23,24; Eph. 6:15; Heb. 13:20,21; 2 Thes. 3:16; 1 Pet 1:2).