

PEACE WITH GOD

Paul opened with his standard salutation emphasizing God's grace and peace: "Grace to you and **peace** (eirene) **from** (apo+abl. of source) **God** our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Phile.3; Eph.1:2; Phil.1:2; Col.1:2)

Both the Hebrew (shalom) and the Greek (eirene) denote a state of peace from which comes blessings.

Both were used in customary greetings and farewells – "Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." (2 Cor.13:11)

Both words are used to indicate the absence of hostility or ill-will in relationships – "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men." (Rom.12:18)

Today's lesson will study four aspects of an unbeliever going from a state of enmity with God to a state of eternal Peace with God.

1. All mankind is estranged from God because of Adamic Sin (AOS).

"And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made **peace** through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds." (Col.1:20-21; Eph.2:12-19).

The 13 judicial charges of Adam's Original Sin (AOS) **created a barrier** of separation between mankind and a holy God.

We will examine 6 of the 13 judicial charges from Romans Ch.5. You can find the rest of them in the brochure, 50 Things.

- **Ungodly** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (Rom.5:6)

- **Sinner** But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom.5:8)

- **Wrath of God** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (Rom.5:9)

- **Enemies of God** For if while we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Rom.5:10)

- **Spiritual death** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death spread to all men, because all sinned. (Rom.5:12)

- **Condemnation** So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Rom.5:18)

**"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Rom.5:1)**

2. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ was the offering required to appease the Justice of God regarding the 13 charges of AOS to bring fallen man into a state of Peace with God (Heb.9:11-15, 25-28; 10:9-12).

(Heb.9:14) “How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Col.1:20-22)

(Heb.13:20) “Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord.”

(Eph.2:12-19) One barrier (vs.12); One blood (vs.13-15); One body (vs.16-17); One brethren (vs.18-19); and One building (vs.20-22).

(Eph.2:14) “For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.”

There is no peace with God apart from faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. Therefore the gospel of Jesus Christ is called the gospel of peace.

(Eph.6:15) “And having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”

(Eph.2:17) “And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near.”
“The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all).”
(Acts 10:36)

(Rom.10:8 -17) heart (vs.8-10); heed (vs.11-16); hearing (vs.17) – “And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things?’”
(Rom.10:15)

Evangelical Christians are Ambassadors for Christ to the world.

(2 Cor.5:18-21) mission (vs.17-18a); ministry (vs.18b-20); message (vs.19-21) – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor.5:21)

4. Peace with God is associated with all three phases of the plan of God.

Phase one of the plan of God is grace salvation or positional peace (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9). At the moment of salvation, the sin barrier is removed and the believer enters into eternal peace with God – “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.” (Rom.5:1-2; Eph.2:13-18; Col.1:20-22)

Phase two of the plan of God is the believer in time walking by Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16) and walking by faith (2 Cor.5:7) or experiential peace – “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Rom.14:17) “So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.” (Rom.14:19; Gal.5:22-23; Rom.8:6; 15:13; Phil.4:6-7)

Phase three of the plan of God is the believer in eternity by dying grace or permanent peace – “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess.5:23; John 14:27; 20:19-21; Heb.13:20; Rom.16:20; 2 Thess.3:16)