

The Way to Peace

Men speak of *peace* often during these troubled times. People talk, sing, write, and preach about the word *peace*. The striving for peace is one of life's most noble aspirations. In our topsy-turvy world with so many conflicting ideologies, can we find peace and certainty?

Jesus spoke often about peace. He told his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you (John 14:27)." Paul informed the Philippians, "The peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:7)." Do you possess the peace that passes all understanding? There may be toil and trouble in the world, but you can have peace within your heart. The Bible charts the path to peace in a way that is plain enough for all of us to follow.

. First, obedience to the gospel is the way to peace (Rom. 6:16-19; 6:1-5). Acceptance of and obedience to the gospel plan of salvation removes the terrible burden of sin. The examples of conversion in the book of Acts show this to be true. On the day of Pentecost, joy and peace filled the hearts of those who heard the gospel preached, believed, repented, and were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:14-40; 2:43-47). The Ethiopian nobleman searched the Old Testament scriptures as he traveled by chariot from Jerusalem to Ethiopia (Acts 8:26-40), After hearing Philip preach Jesus (Acts 8:35), he believed, confessed his faith, and was baptized (Acts 8:36-39). After he obeyed the gospel, the Bible says of the Ethiopian, "He went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39)." Obedience to the gospel brought salvation and peace to this man from Ethiopia.

Second, daily practice of the teaching of our Lord, Jesus, secures peace (John 14:1-20). One, who walks with the Lord and according to his word, walks with peace and certainty, because the word makes him "complete, furnished completely unto every good work (2 Tim 3:17)." The words of Jesus are spirit and life (John 6:63) and his word will judge each of us (John 12:48). We may rest assured in his word.

Finally, does the peace that passes understanding dwell in your heart? By obeying the word of Christ, you can attain that peace. Paul admonished us, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also you were called in one body; and be you thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (Col 3:15-16)."

The avenue to peace is obedience to the word of Christ.