

**THE INDESCRIBABLE GIFT
ADVENT 2: THE GIFT OF PEACE**

Luke 1.67-79, 2.14

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9.15

In a letter to the Corinthians, Paul thanks God for the indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. One of the manifestations of that gift is the gift of peace for every believer. On the night of Jesus' birth the angels announced to the shepherds "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2.14)

But we live in a world that seems anything but peaceful. Does that mean that this gift of peace is only for the future when Jesus returns and we're just consigned to a world of war and strife? God came to his people and redeemed them. He wants to "guide our feet into the path of peace" (Luke 1.79) and is more than able to bring peace to our times.

How do we let him do it? How can we walk the path of peace?

- Think **PEACE**

Let the peace that Christ gives control your thinking... Colossians 3.15 ERV

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12.2

- Keep a handle on **YOUR TONGUE**

Remind the people.....to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. Titus 3.1-2

- Let it go and let God handle **REVENGE**

... as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. Romans 12.18-19

- Be a **CONFLICT RESOLVER**

So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God. Matthew 5.23-24 CEV

- Get **WISE**

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. James 3.17-18

How do we gain wisdom? Put Jesus' words **INTO PRACTICE**. (Matthew 7.24-27)

- **FELLOWSHIP** with other believers.

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2.22

- Go out of your way to **ENCOURAGE** others.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14.19

2 Things to remember as we ponder choosing this path:

1. **IT AIN'T EASY** (Duh!)

2. God can still **WORK MIRACLES** (John 6.1-9)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. Ephesians 3.20

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What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?