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SUNDAY SERVICE

WHY IS JESUS CALLED "THE LORD OF PEACE"?

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2 Thessalonians 3:16, "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all." When Paul says "the Lord of peace" he's thinking of Jesus, and he's thinking of Jesus in terms of the peace that He brings.

Why does he call him the Lord of peace?

This is an important question for us to ask, because there are other passages in the Scripture in which it becomes clear that Jesus Christ does not bring peace to everyone in every situation. For example, the words of Jesus himself in Matthew 10:34. Jesus says, "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword."

What did Jesus mean by that? "I have not come to bring peace to the earth."

Isn't it true that when Jesus was born that the angels declared, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and goodwill to men"?

Isn't Jesus the Prince of Peace and the Lord of peace?

Yet there's a sense in the statement that He came not to bring peace, but to bring a sword.

Jesus Christ does not bring peace to all people.

The Scriptures very clearly says in

Isaiah 57:21

[21]"There is no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."

So there are some people who will not and indeed cannot receive peace of God. They cannot receive peace from God or peace through Christ until something is done in their hearts and in their lives. The Scriptures, speaking about the day of judgment, tell us that at the end of time, on the day of judgment, there will be peace for some, but there will be anguish and wrath for others.

Listen to Apostle Paul in Romans 2:9-10. He says, "There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek."

Once again, we're confronted with the reality of sin, this great, disruptive force in the world, and how this sin leads to judgment, it leads to wrath, and there's no peace for those whose sins are not somehow dealt with.

So how is Christ the Lord of peace?

Christ is the Lord of peace in these two ways:

(1) Jesus brings us peace with God. Christ is the Lord of peace because he is the one through whom humanity can be reconciled to God, their sins be atoned for, their sins be forgiven, and the harmony between our souls and God be restored.

Scripture speaks of this in several passages.

Ephesians 2:13-16 "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility."

Now, in this passage Paul is writing into a context where you have Jewish believers and Gentile believers who have been reconciled together and are now part of the church.

So when he talks about making both one, he's talking about bringing these two races together, so there's a horizontal dimension.

But notice that he says that he's brought both one so as to bring them together to God, and in order to do that, Christ through his blood had to break down the hostility, the enmity.

That is, the breakdown in the relationship, the hostility between man and God, Christ had to deal with that; and that hostility is symbolized for us in terms of this dividing wall.

You might think of the veil in the temple that separated man from God, that kept human beings out of the Most Holy place, where God's very presence was manifested.

What Paul is telling us in Ephesians 2 is that Christ, through his blood on the cross, through his atoning work on the cross, he has broken down that wall, he has torn that curtain, he has opened the way to peace with God, in order to reconcile us to God.

How do we get peace with God? We get peace with God through the blood of Jesus Christ.