

Why Believe In Friendship And Peace?

Sunday Morning, April 10, 2011

Ephesians 2:12-19

Introduction:

1. Sin makes us enemies.

a. Sin turns us against God.

Ephesians 2:12

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

b. Sin turns us against one another.

Romans 3:10-18

(10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

(11) There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

(12) They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

(13) Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

(14) Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

(15) Their feet are swift to shed blood:

(16) Destruction and misery are in their ways:

(17) And the way of peace have they not known:

(18) There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Adam blamed Eve, Cain killed Abel, it continues on until now!

2. Jesus can make us friends.

a. He died for our sins.

Ephesians 2:16

And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

John 15:13

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Message next Sunday: Why Believe In The Crucifixion?

b. He changes our hearts.

Ephesians 2:13-14

(13) But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

(14) For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

Colossians 1:20-23

(20) And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

(21) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

(22) In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

(23) If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

3. The final war is coming.

a. God's enemies will be punished forever.

Matthew 7:13-14

(13) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

(14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

(7) And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

(8) In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

(9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

(10) When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

b. God's friends will be rewarded forever.

Matthew 7:14

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

4. Jesus offers friendship and peace now.

a. His friendship lasts forever.

Ephesians 2:19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

2 Chronicles 20:7

Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

b. His peace is permanent.

i. Peace was proclaimed at His birth.

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

ii. Peace was provided at His resurrection.

Luke 24:36

And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

John 20:19

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

John 20:21

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

John 20:26

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Easter Sunday – April 24 – Why Believe In The Resurrection?

iii. Peace was preached through history.

Romans 10:15

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

iv. Peace will prevail at the great judgment.

Revelation 20:11-15

(11) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

(12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

(13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

(14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

(15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

v. Peace will be permanent in heaven.

Revelation 21:1-4

(1) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

(2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

(3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

(4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Conclusion: What Do You Have?

No Jesus = No Peace

Know Jesus = Know Peace