



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!
Sunday - January 21, 2024

Peace, a Sword, or Both?

by Troy Spradlin

The ancient prophet, Isaiah, described the coming Messiah as, "*Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*" (Isaiah 9:6) Seven hundred years later, Jesus confirmed Isaiah's prophecy with, "*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.*" (John 16:33) Indeed, when we think of Jesus, it is easy to connect the idea of peace with His persona. Yet, on one occasion, Jesus said, "*Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.*" (Matthew 10:34) The inspired writer Luke recorded it this way, "*Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.*" (12:51) So, which is it? Did Jesus come to bring peace or a sword? How do we reconcile Jesus being the Prince of Peace yet saying He didn't come to bring peace?

As is always the case, the context of a passage must be considered first! The statement Jesus made about not bringing peace but a sword does not contradict His character at all nor His teachings about a disciple being a peacemaker (Matt 5:9; Luke 10:5-6). It also does not conflict with what the inspired writers taught about Christians living in peace (Titus 3:2; James 3:17). Without question, the New Testament emphasizes we must live in one accord with our neighbors. Yet, Jesus made a distinction between *physical peace* and *spiritual peace*. Both are commanded and each carries the implication of seeking harmonious relationships with others.

With that in mind, consider what Jesus went on to say in Matthew 10 after He mentioned bringing a sword. He continued with, "*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*" (Matt 10:37) The context of the passage has to do with counting the cost of following the Christ, not taking up arms against an opponent. The parallel account in Luke 12 adds more clarity, "*From now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. Father will be divided against son and son against father, ...*" (Luke 12:52-53). So essentially, what Jesus is saying is that following Him will cause disagreements between even the closest family members. One will choose to believe and follow Christ, while another may not. Therefore, are you willing to make such a sacrifice?

Jesus is certainly not advocating violence between family members or His adversaries! That would completely refute His message of loving your neighbor and your enemies or "*turning the other cheek*" (Matthew 5:38-44, 22:39; John 13:34). Instead, He is simply stating that not everyone will accept Him as their Savior. This harmonizes perfectly with what He taught in the "The Four Soils" parable in Luke 8:4-15, the "Wide and Narrow Path" in Matthew 7:13-14, and the challenge He issued to His followers in John 6:60-69. Those who reject the Christ will sometimes vehemently oppose His disciples, creating division that can escalate into persecution. Such a reaction does not happen because Jesus instigates it, but because the world hates the light (Matt 10:22; John 15:18-20).

So, what did Jesus bring? He brought both peace and a "sword." The word "sword" is not a tangible, physical weapon, but rather, an analogy for the Word of God. It is that Word that causes people to divide into opposing factions: believers and non-believers. Paul calls it the "*sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*" in Ephesians 6:17. It was what caused Pharaoh to oppose God (Exodus 8-9) and the world to reject the Christ (John 17:6-14).

Jesus is still the Prince of Peace and He continues to offer peace to the world today. It is a "*peace that passes all understanding*" (Phil 4:7). But accepting Him as your Savior may cause others, even possibly your own family, to oppose you. What Jesus offers is worth any trouble that may come. The peace He is concerned about giving is not worldly peace. "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid,*" (John 14:27). His peace has far greater rewards! "*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*" (Rom 5:1). His peace provides hope and eternal life!



MSYG EVENTS & INFO



Gulf Coast Bible Camp
120 Bible Camp Road
Lucedale, MS 39452

Camp Sessions & Dates:

Baldwin County Week:
May 26 - 31 (1st-12th grade)

Gulf Coast Week:
June 2 - 7 (1st-12th grade)

Middle & High School Week:
June 9 - 14 (6th-12th grade)

Junior Week:
June 23 - 26 (1st-5th grade)

Hattiesburg Week:
July 7 - 12 (1st-12th grade)

register at gulfcoastbiblecamp.com



2023 - 2024

Upcoming Workshops & Info

January 21: Workshop,
Speech Dress Rehearsal,
Registration fees due, & Pre-
convention event deadline

UNSTOPPABLE

GULF COAST
AREAWIDE 2023-2024
SCHEDULE

AUG 13 / AZALEA CITY COC

SEPT 17 / GULF SHORES COC

OCT 15 / SCENIC HILLS COC

NOV 10-12 / FUEL RETREAT

JAN 7 / SPANISH FORT COC

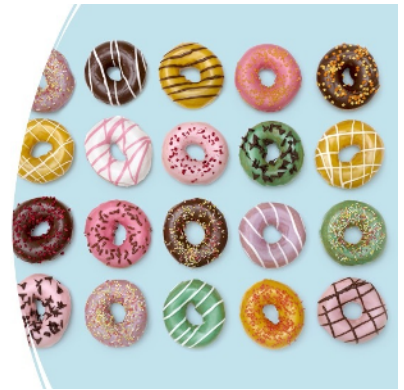
FEB 18 / EASTERN SHORE COC

MAR 10 / UNIVERSITY COC

APR 21 / MARGARET ST. COC

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. February 21st
4:30 pm in the FH



SNAC
SUNDAY NIGHT
AFTER CHURCH
January 28 | @ McReynolds

MSYG
Parent Meeting

January 28 | 4:30 pm | Room 303

MSYG GIRLS ARE INVITED TO

2024
GALENTINE DINNER

Friday, February 9th | 6 PM
Hosted by Theresa Tucker

YOUTH
GUYS
NIGHT

Friday, February 2nd @ 7 pm
\$10 each (Sign-up & pay by January 21st)

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12



Digital access to our Calendars on your
computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the
Church Calendar on teamup.com

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Becky Bernardi - prayers (AGingerich's mom)
- Cassie Buchanant* - 2nd surgery, recovery
- Caitlin Crider* - surgery, recovery
- Russell & April Estain * - birth of Owen*
- Dawson Hitchcock* - covets prayers
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae
- Gail Mantie - health, tests (Amber D. mom)
- Sharon Parker* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Patsy Prince - septic, ICU (L.Burnham*)
- Ashley Ray* - ACL surgery, recovery
- Lee Smith - fractured vertebrae, kidney infec.
- Edwina Sumrall - (K.Longmire*)
- Josh & Ashley Thompson - birth of baby boy!
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)

Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley* - passing of Darlene
- Brooklyn Bostwick* - loss of mom, Kandi
- Sarah Davis & family* - loss of Gigi, Norma
- John Hart Ellis* - loss of wife
- Gary Good* - loss of sister
- Debbie Hill* and family - loss of Mary Salinas
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Doug Lee & family* - loss of mom, Betty
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman*)
- Sherryn Canniff* - homebound
- Sherry Davis*-Memory Care (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia*- Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller*
- Ruth Phillips*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (JEnglish mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)

Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Savannah Smith
- Seth Crider
- LizAnn Webb
- Stephen English
- Nick Webb
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Lily Weathersbee
- Jackson Lash
- Reed Wilson
- Caleb Owens
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester*)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Donald Hamilton - tests, health (McGriff*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Terry Jennings*- home PT/recovery
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - @ home recovering
- Theresa McHargue-ill, prayers (Gallagher*)
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Ruth Phillips* - health, prayers
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Donnie Turner - (Helms*)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis*
- Sheryl Downy - surgery (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jennings - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Greg Lewis* - lung cancer
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin*)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - waiting on results
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Expectant Mothers

- Hannah Newcomb - April 2024
- Tara Henry - May 2024

Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock - Baptized 12/31/23

**Congregational
Planning Meeting**

TODAY @ 5 PM

ROOM 303

All are welcomed!



Need a...

**Contribution
Statement**

Sign up at the information Station



Men's Breakfast

Date : February 4th

Fellowship Hall @ 7:30 AM

Sign up at information Station



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

MORNING

Opening Prayer Jon Raley
Song Director Mason Chandler
Sermon Troy Spradlin
..... "The Right Tool for the Job"
Scripture Reading Mike Scott
..... Hosea 14:1-9
Closing Prayer Joe Wilson

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Philip Lester Nick Bartell
Holden Raley Eddie Longmire
..... Dalton Lester (Balcony)
Comments Matt McReynolds

EVENING

Opening Prayer Jak Gallagher
Singing Paul Lipford
Scripture Mike Frahm
..... Revelation 20:12-15
Comments Matt McReynolds

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Hatcher family
PowerPoint Connie Bartell
Greeters Jak Gallagher
Secure Building Jak Gallagher

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Holden Raley
Opening Prayer Parker Godwin

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 132
AM Worship 168
PM Worship 130
Wed. Night Bible Class 154
Contribution \$35,619
Weekly Budget TBA
2023 Average Contribution \$21,770

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday**, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of your contribution.



FOOD PANTRY

- **Food Pickup** : 2/6/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Preparing Boxes:**
 - 2/7/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 2/8/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Distribution** : 2/8/24 @ 2:30 PM

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



OWLS BIBLE STUDY
ANGELS AND DEMONS
Every Thursdays @ 10:30 AM
Starting February 1st

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code
to open webpage
for Online Giving

STAFF

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CONTACT FOR JANUARY:

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Secondary Rick Bird

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
Education Chris Davis*
Evangelism Troy Spradlin
Finance
Fellowship Jeff Scott*
Involvement Joe Taylor*
Lads to Leaders David English
OWLS Stephen Fulton
Missions Mike Scott*
Visitation Bob Locklin
..... Mason Chandler
Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
Worship Blake Hatcher*
Youth & Family Casey Bearden