

Series: Romans
Title: The God of Peace
Text: Rom 15: 33
Date: August 2, 2020
Place: SGBC, NJ

Romans 15:33: Now the God of peace *be* with you all. Amen.

Proposition: God is the God of peace.

Without doing anything God is the God of peace. Peace is who our God is. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus is THE God of peace in his very essence. In all that God does he is Peace. God is never surprised or disappointed; nothing alters his peace.

Acts 15: 18: Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.

God does not change; God is constant peace

James 1: 17: the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

But as fallen children of Adam, all sinners come into this life with no peace. We are unable to make peace between us and God. In the garden when Adam sinned against the God of peace war began between sinners and God. God is peace but we are war, all unrest, and murderers.

Psalm 28:3...the wicked,...with the workers of iniquity,...speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.

Jeremiah 9:8: Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait. 9 Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

God's justice must be avenged. So how are sinners like us given peace? How are we brought into peace with God? How are we made peacemakers toward others?

THE COUNCIL AND COVENANT OF PEACE

Peace for sinners began by God choosing whom he would and purposing to bring us into peace. God made in his Son a covenant of peace—the everlasting covenant of redemption, the covenant of grace, is a covenant of peace.

God purposed that his people would fall in sin. In time God typified our fallen condition by the children of Israel in captivity in Babylon. But from eternity, God purposed to reconcile his people to himself in Christ, purposed to call us and purposed to make us be reconciled to God through faith in Christ. This eternal covenant of peace is typified in God's purpose toward the children of Israel in Babylonian captivity.

Jeremiah 29: 10 For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place 11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. 12: Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

God ordained the exact time when he would visit his elect in the person of his Son—"when the fulness of time was come God sent forth his Son." Christ performed God's good word toward us by reconciling us to God through Christ's cross according to God's covenant of peace. When the Spirit of God has called us then our end is the same as theirs—"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you." That eternal covenant of peace was God's good word which Christ worked for his people.

Again we see Christ's rule typified by David's rule over national Israel.

Ezekiel 34: 23: And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, *even* my servant David he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. 24: And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken *it*. 25: And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods. 26: And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.

King David was a type of Christ our King. He is the Prince of peace among us. God's hill of blessing is his church, his holy hill of Zion. Through Christ fulfilling the covenant of peace, Christ sends the gospel upon us which fall like showers on the grass.

Another time is seen after Israel was divided into two kingdoms due to their sin against God. God declares he alone unites and creates peace. It typifies the peace Christ makes between his elect, Jew and Gentile. Christ is the Holy sanctuary in our midst.

Ezekiel 37: 21: And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: 22: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all: 23: Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. 24: And David my servant *shall be* king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. 25: And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, *even* they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David *shall be* their prince for ever. 26: Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. 27: My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28: And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.

So our peace with God began with God's everlasting covenant of peace. By Christ, all God's people are made one. Christ is our King of Salem—King of peace. He is the Prince of peace who rules in our midst.

CHRIST IS OUR PEACE

This brings us to the second point. It was Christ who came and accomplished peace between God and his people. Like Israel of old, God's elect Jew and elect Gentiles were divided. How are we made one and given peace? How was the above prophecy fulfilled?

Ephesians 2: 14: For [Christ] is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; 15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; 16: And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

By Christ fulfilling the law for us, God's people kept his ordinances and did them in perfection. He alone made peace between God and his people, as well as, between his people and one another.

Zechariah 6:13: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Christ worked peace between God the Father and his elect children by the blood of his cross. He reconciled all God's elect in heaven and earth unto himself. He reconciled "things in earth and things in heaven" which is God's elect people.

Colossians 1:20: 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.

Paul keeps saying, “*By him, by him, by him, I say!*” God’s holiness demanded that for there to be peace between God and his people God’s truth, his law had to be honored. But the law demanded his people must die.

Isiah 53: 4: Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

“Chastisement” here is not the faithful, loving chastisement with which God our Father chastens believers. It means vindictive justice, wrath taking vengeance on our surety in our place. Thereby divine wrath is appeased, justice is satisfied, and peace is made—“*with his stripes we are healed.*”

We see this work of Christ typified in Phinehas. An Israelite, Zimri, brought a Midianite woman, Cozbi, into the camp of Israel. It was transgression against God’s law. So God sent a plague among them. But Phinehas, the priest, the son of Aaron, as a type of Christ, slew them both. He pictured God’s elect being slain in Christ. This is what Christ did and brought in for all God’s elect Israel. Therefore, this is God’s word to Christ and to his people in Christ.

Numbers 25: 10 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 11: Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy. 12: Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: 13: And he shall have it, and his seed after him, *even* the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

So our peace began with God’s everlasting covenant of peace. Then Christ accomplished that good word, making peace between God and his people, by bearing our sin so that the javelin of justice pierced him in our stead. He was zealous for God and made atonement for God’s elect Israel. “While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

PREACHING PEACE

Each of God’s elect, redeemed, reconciled people are brought to be reconciled in time by the Holy Spirit of God regenerating us through the preaching of the gospel of peace. This very gospel of reconciliation is the means whereby God brings his people to be reconciled to him.

Christ sends his preacher declaring his finished work of peace.

Acts 10:36: The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

Ephesians 2: 17: [Christ through the Spirit] came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18: For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Reconciliation and peace are the message of the gospel which Christ’s preachers preach.

2 Corinthians 5: 18: And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20: Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 6: 1: We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

Those Christ sends preach in Christ’s stead, declaring to all who will hear that God in Christ has successfully wrought peace between he and his people. Be sure to get this. God will not impute sin to his

people because God made his Son sin for us, who knew no sin, and Christ made us the righteousness of God in him. God's grace is never in vain! It means do not hear this word of God's grace in vain! Do not prove to be one for whom this work was NOT done! Today is the day of salvation! Believing on Christ proves our election of God, our redemption by Christ, our regeneration by the Spirit—God's grace is never in vain!

Now, you lay down your weapons, and be reconciled to God. When the Holy Spirit gives a new heart—the child of God is given faith to behold Christ our Peace. Faith beholds peace accomplished. It causes us to be at peace with God.

Romans 5:1: Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

This peace will never again turn into warfare between God and reconciled people

Isaiah 54:10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

You who have never believed on Christ, hear this. You will never have peace in your heart nor peace with God until you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. It is called “peace in believing.”

Romans 15: 13: Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Believer, knowing we have peace with God, give yourself to hear this gospel of peace. Set your focus on Christ above. The way we are kept in heart and mind is by this peace of God.

Philippians 4: 4: Rejoice in the Lord always: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

Be always focused on Christ above and rejoice in peace.

Philippians 4: 5: Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

It means be meek and gentle unto all; deal in mercy rather than judgment; bear insults and be at peace. We can do so knowing that the Lord is near and working everything that comes to pass in our lives.

Philippians 4: 6: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Also, knowing the Lord is at hand, be not anxious over trials or over anything else. Instead, call on the Lord your peace by prayer, making supplication to the Prince of peace, letting all your requests be made known unto him. These things will promote peace in our hearts. And this is the result,

Philippians 4: 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

In Colossians 3, Paul says the same thing. He begins the chapter telling us to seek Christ above, setting our affection on him rather than on this earth. Then he says mortify the deeds of the flesh as Christ renews you in his image. Then he says get along with your brethren and with all men by the peace of God ruling your heart.

Colossians 3: 12: Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13: Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. 14: And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15: And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Now I pray for you what Paul prayed for the Roman brethren, **Romans 15:33: Now the God of peace *be* with you all. Amen.**

Amen!