

Pastor's Pen

True Peace!

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

"Give Peace a chance," "Peace will save the world," and "Humanity Is My Race Love Is My Religion Peace Is My Weapon" are just a few of the 75 slogans I found when I searched peace slogans. In February 1971, I was fourteen years old when Coca-Cola aired their, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony)" commercial. The Vietnam war was still going on, and there were peace marches and demonstrations worldwide. The lyrics to the song were,

"I'd like to build the world a home and furnish it with love
grow apple trees and honey bees and snow white turtle doves
I'd like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony
I'd like to hold it in my arms and keep it company
I'd like to see the world for once all standing hand in hand
and hear them echo through the hills for peace throughout the land"

The message was loud and clear; if we tried harder, there would be no more wars, poverty, hatred, or killings. But, there will never be world peace before the second coming of Christ. That does not mean that Christians should not live peaceful lives. In fact, we are commanded to precisely that (Romans 12:18, I Thessalonians 4:11). Peace for a follower of Christ does not depend on what the world or others are doing.

Paul has just finished his argument, in chapters 1—4, that nobody can be made right with God by following the works of the law of Moses. Men and women can only be declared righteous and escape God's wrath by faith in what He has done for us through Jesus' death and resurrection, which secures our justification (Romans 4:24–25). Now Paul tells us what we have gained in being justified by faith. We have indeed escaped the wrath of God, but being righteous before God means so much more than just not being punished for our sin. It's important to note that Paul is writing to Christians. Paul's use of the term "we" in this passage is not universal, and it does not apply to all of the entire world. He is describing what is true for those who have trusted in Christ's work for their salvation. This is made explicitly clear by his explanation of faith and belief in

The prior messages. Paul is not saying all people everywhere have peace with God, only those who have believed in the God who raised Jesus from the dead.

Paul tells those who have been justified in God's eyes have peace with God. Paul does not mean by this that we feel peaceful, that we experience no anxiety. He means that we have been made right with God. We are at peace with God from now and through eternity. This is possible only "through our Lord Jesus Christ." In Christ, God has made a permanent peace with us. And since He is the one who made it, it is a peace that can never be lost. John MacArthur puts it this way:

"The **peace** that Paul is speaking about here is not subjective but objective. It is not a feeling but a fact. Apart from salvation through **Jesus Christ**, every human being is at enmity with God, spiritually at war with Him (see v. 10; cf. 8:7), regardless of what his feelings about God may be. In the same way, the person who is justified by faith in Christ is at **peace** with God, regardless of how he may feel about it at any given moment. Through his trust in **Jesus Christ**, a sinner's war with God is ended for all eternity."

Do you have true peace?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

"What peace can they have who are not at peace with God?"

-Matthew Henry

Grace Gems

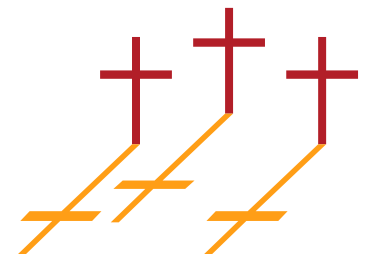
God laughs
- (Thomas Watson, "Kiss the Son")

"The Lord laughs at the wicked, for He knows their day is coming." Psalm 37:13

"Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Then He rebukes them in His anger and terrifies them in His wrath!" Psalm 2:3-5

God laughs to see men's folly—to see poor, weak clay strive with the Almighty Potter. But let the wicked remember that God is never more angry with them—than when He laughs! After His laughing, then He shall speak to them in His wrath. "I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you!" Proverbs 1:26

"Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for His wrath can flare up in a moment! Blessed are all who take refuge in Him." Psalm 2:12



Weekly Gatherings



Bible Classes

New Testament
Sunday School
Sunday Morning @ 9AM



Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study



Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM @ Royall's
Every other Thursday @ 7PM
@ Patrick's & Cox's



Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



Youth Study

Wednesdays @ 6:30PM
Youth Study
AWANA @ 6:30PM-8PM



Service Times

Sunday Service 10:30AM
Children's Church @ 10:30AM

Giving from service on 04/18/2021

General Offering	6,606.60
Building Fund	352.60
Annie Armstrong	200.00
Uganda	50.00
Total	\$7,209.20

Annie Armstrong Goal: \$1750. Donated: \$1500.
Attendance178
Sunday School 110
Online.....25

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



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ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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