



Christmas and Peace

Along with arrival of Christmas, we have winter things to either enjoy or dread. I have always been a winter-loving person! I love cold weather (as long as it is outside), snow, and the happy holidays to look forward to. It seems like this time of year holds the fun and memory-making times I anticipate each year.

On the other hand, with the years that I am quickly adding to my collection, I have come to know the other part of winter that bears the responsibility: making sure the walkway and drive are clear of ice and snow to prevent accidents, the aching back that shows up when a shovel is in hand, and the added danger of driving on slippery roads. Although I have not been able to fully put away my “childish” fun in the snow and delight in winter activities, the fun has most assuredly been tempered by the responsibilities of adulthood.

As parents, people have grown into a set of responsibilities that may often turn their minds and spirits toward anxious thoughts, worries, and daily cares. Is a child sick? Are there bills to be paid? Are the children (home-schooling students) REALLY learning what they need to know? Is the car going to hold out until the next paycheck can be applied to the repairs? What about the current situation in the world?

Peace is a word we often see and hear at Christmas time decorating the front of a lovely card, glittering an ornament, or accenting the atmosphere of our homes through a familiar, favorite Christmas carol; but peace is more than a decoration. It is a state of calm and quiet in the heart; and, yes, it is possible to have an abiding peace in the midst of troubled times.

God’s word promises a peace “that passes understanding” and a peace “that the world cannot take away.” Consider this thought: If God is truly God and has all things under control, then we can trust Him to bring His will to pass.

We do, however, have responsibility to seek the Lord’s will in not only our lives but also in each situation that arises. Have you prayed honestly to God about your trouble? It does so much good to tell God honestly what is disturbing us. Bring it to God piece by piece and pray it through. Even though the situation may not change immediately, it takes the pressure off you and places it upon the shoulders of an Almighty God. He’ll do something inside of you to help you carry on... one step at a time, one day at a time.

Then, if you will open the pages of His letter to you (the Bible), He will lead you to a precious promise that you can cling to while you wait on Him for the answer to your petition. He may also lead you to verses that are profitable for reproof, correction, or instruction... directions for you to obey that will help to produce in you and in your home the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

As you ask and trust, the Lord will work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2). He’ll transform you in the midst of your trouble and will give you His peace... this peace God gives is always the first answer to your prayer.

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him, for He is... The Prince of Peace.

-Holly Hageman; copyright November 2001, August 2004