

**HE WILL BE CALLED—wk4**  
**PRINCE OF PEACE**  
**Advent 2019 – Joseph May**

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Christmas is not always peaceful is it? How have your holidays been for you?

If our peace is not found in God instead of Christmas Memories we won't make it through the year. We need something stronger than a yearly dose of cheer to help us make it through life.

The first Christmas was anything but peaceful for our young parents that had the task of bringing the Christ into the world. Here is the Christmas they encountered:

**Read first Luke 2:10-14**

- Mary found out she's pregnant and in doing so comes to grip with having to face the death penalty in her village.
- Joseph (Mat. 1:19) was going to divorce Mary quietly to save her life.
- He married her anyway facing the shame of his community.
- Traveled hundred of miles while Mary was in her third trimester.
- Had to stay in an unsanitary place to give birth to their child – never mind the fact that this was the age of no epidurals...
- After visits from shepherds and wise men king Herod gets jealous and goes and kills every child under 2 years old in the vicinity around Bethlehem.

The first Christmas, was not a peaceful time on earth and yet wasn't this baby carrying the title the "Prince of Peace"?

Maybe if we were to put your life on the big screen and lay it out for others to see I bet we could find some of God's people right here not experiencing the peaceful life.

Sometimes, being a Christian in hectic times has the ability to make someone feel even more miserable. Because here's what you're really thinking, "Where is God in this?"

You see many of us in this room thought life would get easier when we came to Christ.

Some of us have been discouraged because your faith has not worked out for you the way you thought it would.

BUT there are some of you that have hung on long enough to understand **the meaning of this title and ultimately how Christ brings you peace. (if that's your responsibility is to teach it to the rest of us)** The Christian life as it gains maturity one of the fruits of it is peace.

**Question: What do the title actually mean?**

**Prince – SAR; the one in charge, the Lord, or General**

**Peace – SHALOM; rest, tranquility, wholeness, completeness.**

In our vernacular this doesn't translate well. In Biblical times this actually meant a positive blessing that one has when in a right relationship w/God which makes all things well with your soul.

In other words Jesus Controls the Peace that you receive in a World that is at war with God. War Time Peace...

**"Does this mean we can do whatever we want and receive this peace?"**

**NO...** (below are some common examples of Christian dilemmas)

### **"SAR SHALOM"**

- Can we find peace this morning when we are quick to degrade our spouse, especially in front of our kids?
- Maybe we have been involved in unhealthy relationships outside of God's will that have had lifelong consequences on our lives.
- Is there peace to be found in our lives when we have decided to spend our money thinking of the long-term consequences?

We are always stepping into things in our lives that we think will bring us peace only to find out that these attempts have brought us more anxiety and regret.

Our attempts to find peace are fueled by fleshly desires (**temporary satisfactions**) but just like a drug addiction these attempts for peace with worldly things are destructive.

But the good news of the Gospel is that it is never too late to come back under the Sar Shalom and find peace and rest. **He will even make you look at the things causing you stress, your attempts at temporary satisfaction, in your life and turn them into markers of appreciation for Him.**

I just want to speak on two different concrete ways that Jesus brings us peace this morning:

**Sar Shalom is the Peace...**

### **1. Who Comforts You.**

**“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**

**John 14:27 ESV**

The world offers us ways to cope with what we are going through. But no matter how hard it tries nothing it gives is permanent.

**Jesus gives us a way to increase in joy even in the midst of turmoil.**

Jesus’ joy was made complete after His crucifixion because His resurrection proved that the Father was worthy of a life of obedience.

According to John Jesus is offering us the ability to do the same by sending us the HS.

**In 2015 you may be facing a cross of your own but in fact it is actually the way to reach peace finally in your life. (FB, Garming, Time Wasters)**

This fact may make you a little nervous today but God has foreseen this day and has this promise for you.

[6] do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### **Philippians 4:6-7 ESV**

The Philippians were facing a world of struggle and Paul recognizes that they are going to be facing trial and persecution by the same folks that had put him in prison.

So from his first hand experience on how you deal with torture is to present your struggles to God to find your peace. Paul is speaking about that which he has come to hold onto for his sanity.

This Shalom of God is guarding his heart from despair into giving up.

**Paul has developed this talent of when he's weak he's strong.** That through God's peace he is able to endure more than what the Romans could throw at him.

I found this great quote about prayer life this week from Keller's book *Prayer*.

"Prayer and helplessness are inseparable.  
Only he who is helpless can truly pray."  
Ole Hallesby

Understanding you are helpless is not a cause to fear but a cause to rejoice because you have someone you can go to who is able not to just answer your prayers, if He so wills it, but is able to give you the peace to abide in the trial...

**Illustration** - My family and I had a chance to learn about God's peace this weekend with our cat **Molly**.

God is good all the time, and all the time God is good...

## Sar Shalom is the Peace...

### 2. Who Saves You.

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

This verse doesn't say we have been justified, made right, by our good works in front of God. Not by how much we sacrifice for Him by denying our wants.

We have been made right with God by our faith in Him. Because of this I am at peace.

Faith is a true gift of God but I find that He usually gives it to you in spurts.

He often will remove a sense of comfort to make you draw near to Him.

**When we keep drawing near to Him is how we further see how Christ has bought this peace for us.**

[13] But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14] For he himself is our **peace**, who has made us both one and has **broken down in his flesh** the dividing wall of hostility.

**Ephesians 2:13-14 ESV**

The more we draw near to Him, from this you have peace because your faith is growing.

**“Faith Growing is Peace Rising.”**

In 2015 will you run to Him with your anxiety and cares, will you come back under His rulership, will you receive forgiveness of your sins, will you receive peace?

Pray...

