

Sunday, December 7
Dr. Steve Ayers

Jesus is our peace.

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you (Romans 16:17-20).

We serve a God of peace. That wonderful night more than 2,000 years ago, the angel announced to the shepherds that God sent peace into the world through His Son, Jesus. Because of Jesus, peace is possible. When we let Jesus shine through us, peace becomes a reality on earth.

Peace doesn't happen just because it's the Christmas season. In fact, look around. The world is crazier right now than it was before the holiday season arrived. People are going crazy over things that won't last. But there's one lasting peace—His name is Jesus!

Romans 16:17-20 reminds us that peace is brought through Jesus. First, peace requires truth. You cannot expect to live in lies and have peace. Second, peace means serving Christ instead of ourselves. We'll never be satisfied until we start trying to please Jesus instead of us. Third, peace embraces the wisdom that comes from Heaven, not the temporary ideas of earth. Finally, peace recognizes that God comes through in the end. No matter what, God's going to come through. Now *that's* peace!

Our world needs the peace Jesus gives. It needs the peace that dwells in us, His followers. We've tried everything else. We've done what all the experts have said, and we've seen how that has turned out. What would happen if we as the people of God allowed the peace of Jesus Christ to reign in us this Christmas season? Church, let's show the world God's peace, and let's watch God do great things in our world.