

PEACE

by Carl McMurray

The word in the original Greek, translated “peace” about 93 times in the New Testament is the word *eirene* (1515). It means; “a state of tranquility, the opposite of rage and war.” In passages like Ephesians 2:14, “*For [Christ] is our peace*”, the meaning is that because of Christ, the Christian has peace. Being IN Jesus Christ is to be in peace. Another truth, however, from this same verse is that Christ is actually peace itself. He IS the opposite of rage and war. He IS tranquility. 1 John 4:16 says God IS love because that is the total and complete motivation behind his dealings with men. Likewise, Jesus is so far from rage, war, anger, and vengeance that He is described as being peace itself.

We must note here, to avoid confusion, that the apostle Paul did not use the word *eirenopoios* (1518), i.e., peacemaker. Jesus is not a peacemaker, He IS peace. Men attempt to be peacemakers. They have “peace talks” where they try to achieve peace, promote peace, or enact peace, but only the Lord Jesus Christ IS peace. In the original the term is preceded by the article, “the”. That is to say, Jesus is not just peace, He is THE peace. He is the only peace. He is the one and only peace there is. Just as there is no real and actual love that is not in harmony with God, there is no real and actual peace outside of Jesus the Lord.

Through the ages men have become very creative in their ways they think they can appease the God of heaven and earth and be at peace with Him. They have carved out idols, bowed down to the stars and sun, enacted sacred and sometimes humiliating rituals, and uncountable other schemes and inventions. In Romans 5:1 however, Paul writes, “*Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” He alone is able to be the way to the Father, as was His claim. He alone claims that we must believe in Him as the “I Am” or die in our sins, still at war with God. This is because He alone is THE peace, the only peace.

According to the CANADIAN ARMY JOURNAL, there are startling facts and figures that confirm these thoughts. Aided by historians from England, Egypt, Germany, and India, since 3600 B.C., in over 5,000 years, it has been determined that the world has known only 292 years of peace. There have been 14,531 wars, large and small, in which over 3.6 trillion people have been killed. Why is this so? Why can man never achieve peace on his own, outside of Christ? The answer of course is because there isn’t any peace outside of Christ.

- based upon A WORD FOR THE DAY, by J.D. Watson