

PEACE WITH GOD

People everywhere are searching to find some way to know God. They long to have peace with Him.

Why, then, if we are seeking after God, do we not find Him?

The answer is: WE ARE NOT SEEKING HIM WITH OUR WHOLE HEART.

In His Word God is saying, "*You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*"⁽¹⁾

People are not finding the peace with God that they desire because they want it on their own terms. "My way is just fine," they say. "I don't understand why God will not meet me on my terms." But the Bible says, "*There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.*"⁽²⁾

Can you see how our thoughts and actions are centered upon doing what we consider good for us. We are so wrapped up in living for ourselves we have no time for God, or our fellowmen, except when we can gain something from them. This is SELFISHNESS and is the basis for all sin. Our selfishness, wanting our own way, is really how we oppose God, making ourselves rebels against Him and alienating Him from our lives.

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Therefore, as long as we persists in pursuing our own way—even our own way to God—we will never find or have peace.

WHAT THEN ARE GOD'S TERMS FOR PEACE?

First, God requires everyone to turn from their sins, saying, "*...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*"⁽³⁾ Now this turning from sin means a turning from living for self first to give God His rightful place as the Supreme Being in the Universe. It also means giving your fellowmen their rightful place as beings of equal importance with yourself. The Bible commands, "*...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ...soul ...mind ...strength.*" and "*...your neighbor as yourself.*"⁽⁴⁾

Secondly, to have peace means to be reconciled to God. On God's part, this was made possible through the voluntary death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, on Calvary. Because Jesus died for the sin of the whole world, God is able to be merciful and forgive the sinner and still uphold His righteous government. Therefore, as ambassadors for Christ we strongly urge you to become reconciled to God.⁽⁵⁾

This reconciliation is not a paper transaction. It must be an actual fact, accomplished in your heart. A sinner is in an attitude of enmity and

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This reconciliation is not a paper transaction. It must be an actual fact, accomplished in your heart. A sinner is in an attitude of enmity and

rebellion and does not love or desire the will of God. There must be a change of heart attitude, which is a transaction of the will. The Bible calls this repentance.⁽⁶⁾

No one can experience the peace of salvation without repentance. God requires it. No one can believe to the saving of their soul without repentance. Saving faith follows repentance and no amount of understanding the facts of Bible doctrine with our mind will substitute for this saving faith. The Apostle Paul says he taught "*both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.*"⁽⁷⁾ You must repent. God cannot repent for you.

Thirdly, just as faith follows repentance, obedience follows faith. In fact, obedience and saving faith are inseparable, because in the act of repentance, your will becomes reconciled to the will of God to do His will. So the Scripture says: Jesus "*...became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,*"⁽⁸⁾ and "*So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*"⁽⁹⁾

To recognize Jesus as our Saviour is also to recognize Him as our Lord. No one is more fit to govern us and the universe, which He created, than the Creator Himself. Obedience to the will of God is necessary for the welfare of everyone.

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We must agree what God requires from us to have peace with Him is reasonable and just. God has necessarily pronounced judgment, that is, separation from His presence, upon mankind because of our sins; but He has also graciously found a way to reconcile repentant sinners to a renewed relationship with Himself through the death of His Son. *“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*⁽¹⁰⁾

God has said, *“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.”*⁽¹¹⁾ You do not need to die in your sins. Choose the life that is in His Son, Jesus Christ. *“Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*⁽¹²⁾

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

- (1.) Jeremiah 29:13. (2.) Proverbs 16:25.
- (3.) Luke 13:3 & 5. (4.) Mark 12:30 & 31.
- (5.) II Corinthians 5:20. (6.) Acts 17:30.
- (7.) Acts 20:21. (8.) Hebrews 5:9.
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The truth of God's gracious provision for our reconciliation to Him could only be briefly touched upon in this writing. The following websites contain more helpful information:

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