

Oxford Baptist Church – Pastor Robin W. Pifer
December 6, 2015 - Series – First Family Christmas.
Message: Peace in the Tensions of Life. Psalm 85:8;
Luke 2:14, 29; Eph 2:14-18; 2Thess 3:16

There are many tensions and conflicts we face in this life...

- Inner Conflicts, Family Tensions, Year-end anxieties
- Self-inflicted Tensions because of decisions we have made.
- Unresolved Relational Issues.
- Unexpected Life Issues
- We want peace in the tensions and conflicts of this life.

What is peace? Peace is commonly defined as being calm, tranquil, quiet, blissful, content, and when we feel everything is going our way. This definition is incomplete. The peace that God gives is not subject to fluctuating circumstances and uncertainties of life. It is spiritual peace; it's an attitude of the heart and mind when we believe and know that all is right between us and God. It is the assurance that the Lord is in control of every circumstance and situation in my life. This Peace comes from God himself.

Psalm 85:8; John 16:33; Matt 6:33-34; Eph 2:14 – For He himself is our peace; v.17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Examples of Peace in Luke 2

- There is Peace for Mary and Joseph – Luke 2:1-7
- There is Peace for Everyday People – Luke 2:8-20
- There is Peace for Everyone Waiting – Luke 2:25-38

What about you? Do you want this peace?

- **There is Peace with God: Receive the Good news** Romans 5:1
- **There is Peace for You: Live without Guilt.** Proverbs 28:13
- **There is Peace with Others: Live with Grace.** 2Cor 13:11

How can you experience the peace of Jesus Christ? "Peace Talks"

- **Receive Christ's Peace through Faith** – John 14:27
- **Receive Christ's Peace through Prayer** – Philippians 4:4-8
- **Receive Christ's Peace at all Times** – Isaiah 26:3; 2Thess 3:16

Life Group Questions

1. What are ways people chose to find peace in their lives?
2. Why does peace need to be found in Christ rather than the "crutches" of the world?
3. Discuss the examples of peace in Luke 2. How does the peace of Christ impact the lives of these people?
4. Review the supportive verses in the message starting with Psalm 85:8 and ending with 2Thess 3:16. Reread them as a group. What verse(s) impact you personally about the peace you can have in Christ?
5. Describe a time where you did not have peace and how your focus on Christ helped you to change your perspective on the situation you were dealing with at the time.
6. What area of your life do you find the most difficult in trusting or finding peace with Christ? Take time to pray for each other for these areas.
7. How can prayer, worship and time in the word bring you a measure of peace in Christ?
8. What is the difference between a peace maker and a peace keeper?
9. How can you in practical ways be a minister to bring the peace of Christ into difficult situations in your family, workplace and with friends?