

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Peace

Luke 2:13-14

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If we truly want peace, just as the angels declared 2000 years ago, how do we get it and keep it in our lives?

“Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

ALL PEOPLE NEED PEACE, FEW KNOW HOW TO GET IT.

As we become people of peace and bring Jesus’ peace to others the door opens to their hearts and spiritual needs.

A familiar Christmas refrain is taken from the King James Version of Luke 2:14: *“On earth peace, good will toward men.”*

But is that what the angels really said that night outside Bethlehem? Obviously, The earth is not at peace.

Jesus Himself said, “You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place” (Matthew 24:6). So if we have been thinking that there was to be no more conflict or combat after the birth of Jesus, we have been hearing the angels wrong.

There is an interesting reason why this has been misleading and it comes from the translation of Luke 2:14 in the King James Version. The King James Version was translated into English from a Greek text known as the **Textus Receptus**, or the **“Received Text.”** The Textus Receptus was based on the first printed Greek New Testament issued by Erasmus in 1516.

Erasmus, however, referenced only seven Greek manuscripts, and they were more modern texts. More recent English translations are from a Greek text that is based on hundreds of

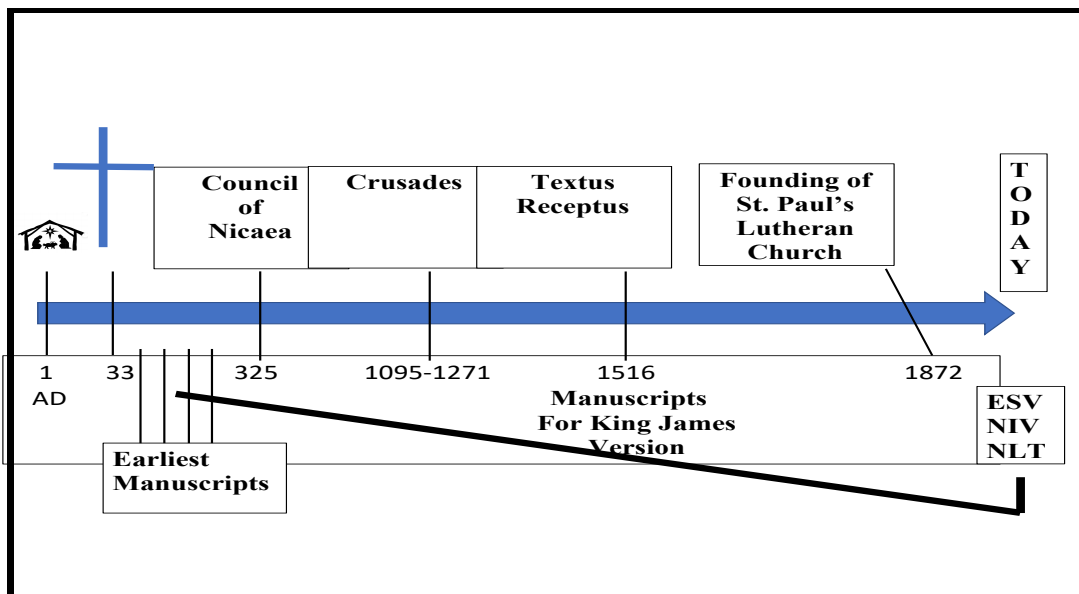


manuscripts that are earlier than the ones Erasmus used.

“peace among men of good will,”

“peace to men on whom his favor rests” (NIV),

“peace among men with whom He is pleased” (NASB).



The Bible teaches us that Men and women, boys and girls are not naturally, or automatically, at peace with God. To the contrary, the Bible teaches that those without Jesus Christ are at war with God, and the only way that they may know peace with Him is through the sacrifice of the One who was born that night in Bethlehem.

“You were ... separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace” (Ephesians 2:12-14).

That’s what the angels were talking about that night. Christmas peace begins with peace with God the Father, and that peace is the result of submitting to and becoming a disciple of Jesus, who is God the Son! Jesus Himself said to His disciples: *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you” (John 14:27).*

The Bible would recommend that You and I need an eye adjustment of about forty-five degrees.

You keep him in perfect peace. whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. (Isaiah 26:3).

So how do we have close fellowship with Jesus and erase worry and replace it with peace?”
Phillippians 4:6-7 is the best council in the universe. *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”*

Christmas peace begins with: accepting peace with Jesus, and then as a result we are flooded with the peace for one another.

Romans 12:18 states, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”
John 13:35³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sometimes courageous and candid words may be true but they can also be stupid and unnecessary words. In fact, we are to *“Seek peace and pursue it” (Psalms 34:14).*

The bible points us to two major steps in gaining that peace.

Step One:

Surrender to Jesus every day your heart, mind, soul and body. Your goal is to know Jesus and reflect him in your attitudes and behavior.

Step Two:

Seek to be a peacemaker to others who are troubled especially fellow believers in the body of Christ.

Remember this truth: The angels on that first Christmas eve did not announce “peace to men on whom his favor rests” just to the shepherds. They made that announcement to YOU and ME!



