



*EST FONDS VITAE*

## **DATE**

---

December 16, 2018

## **SERIES**

---

ADVENT

## **TITLE & PASSAGE**

---

*The Peace-Making God*  
Colossians 1:15-23

## **OCCASION**

---

A message presented by Pastor Marc Minter on the Lord's Day to the congregation of First Baptist Church of Diana, TX.

## **INTRODUCTION**

---

One major message of Christmas is peace. Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among those with whom God is pleased (Lk. 2:14)! God is the peace-making God, and we are wise to ponder the way of peace. In this message, we shall consider the means by which God has made peace with sinners and the means by which that peace is maintained.

## **MAIN POINT**

---

Through the person and work of Christ, God has made peace between Himself and wretched sinners who continually embrace the gospel.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

---

### **Colossians 1:15–23 (ESV)**

15 He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

## **MAIN POINT**

---

Through the person and work of Christ, God has made peace between Himself and wretched sinners who continually embrace the gospel.

## **MESSAGE OUTLINE**

---

- (1) CHRIST REVEALS GOD**
- (2) NATURAL BORN ENEMIES**
- (3) GOD MADE PEACE**
- (4) SOME APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

# MESSAGE

---

## (1) CHRIST REVEALS GOD

- “He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God...” (v15)
  - God is invisible
    - John wrote, “No one has ever seen God...” (Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn. 4:12).
    - Paul wrote, “no one has ever seen [God] or can see [him]” (1 Tim. 6:16).
  - Christ makes God known/visible
    - “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth... No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known” (Jn. 1:14, 18).
  
- Question: How can Jesus Christ reveal God?
  - Answer: Jesus Christ is God, the Son, the second person of the Trinity
    - He is the “firstborn of all creation” (v15)
    - He “created all things” (v16)
    - “all things were created... for him” (v16)
    - He is “before all things” (v17)
    - In Him, “all things hold together” (v17)
    - He is “preeminent in everything” (v18)
    - In Him the “fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (v19)
    - And, He is the “head of the body, the church” (v18)
  
- Friends, what do you **know about God**?
  - Do you know that God is powerful and kind?
  - Do you know that God is just and merciful?
  - Do you know that God is severe and loving?
    - Do you know what you know about God because you have seen it in Christ... have you read about it in His own words?

- Friends, do you live as though Christ is **preeminent**? As though He is first in all things?
- Do you live as though Christ is the **head of this church**? Does **His word govern** all our preferences and our expectations?

**Summary:** Christ reveals God... He shows us who God is... He is how God relates to us.

**Segue:** So, who are we in relationship to God, based on what Christ reveals about God?

## (2) NATURAL BORN ENEMIES

- **Reconciliation: We need a Christ to reconcile us!**
  - God “reconciled” things “through” Christ (v20)
  - God “reconciled” things “in his body... by his death” (v22)
  - God “made peace by the blood of his cross” (v20)
    - All of this speaks of a bad relationship being made good
      - This begs the question...
        - What relationship needed reconciliation?
- **We are natural born enemies of God**
  - You “once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds” (v21).
    - Alienated – estranged, separated
    - Hostile in mind – deliberate enemies
    - Doing evil – practicing or acting out wickedness
  - Multiple passages repeat this refrain; here are three
    - We “once walked” and “lived” in the kinds of things that provoke “God’s wrath.” Things like “sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness” (Col. 3:5-7).
    - “We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another” (Titus 3:3).

- “You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among who we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind” (Ephesians 2:1-3).
- Friends, do you feel the **weight of God’s word** devastating **popular ideas** about natural humanity?
  - Parents, do you realize that your **children** are not naturally good moral people?
  - Friends, do you realize that your **family members** and **friends** are not naturally people with good hearts and righteous intentions?
  - Friends, do you understand that (apart from Christ) **you** are an evil, prideful, fool?
    - Do you understand that this is our **default setting**?
      - We are naturally “**alienated**” from God, “**hostile in mind**” toward the godliness and truth, and doers of “**evil**” things!
- Friends, **what does God owe** someone like us?
  - What does God owe our friend, our neighbor, our children?
    - Does He owe sinners anything but **justice**? NO!

**Summary:** We are natural born enemies of God.

**Segue:** Though God owes us justice, God has made peace through Christ!

### **(3) GOD MADE PEACE**

- The Christmas story is here
  - “in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (v19)

O come, O come, **Emmanuel**  
 O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer; Our spiritus by Thine advent here  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night; And death’s dark shadows put to flight

Joy to the world! **The Lord is come!** Let earth receive her King!  
No more let sins and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground:  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.

- **God came in Christ to make peace!**

- “he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard” (v22-23)
  - **The making of peace**
    - “he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death” (v22).
    - God was pleased to “reconcile to himself all things... making peace by the blood of his cross” (v20).
      - God made peace by crushing His Son as an enemy.
        - God reconciles natural born sinners through the death of His Son... counting the Son as guilty and adopting the guilty as sons.
  - **The purpose of peace**
    - “in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him” (v22)
      - God’s intention is not mere escape from justice or hell
        - God intends to present guilty sinners as holy and blameless and above reproach... in His own presence.
          - “those whom [God] foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he [the Son] might be the firstborn among many brothers” (Rom. 8:29).

- **Continuing in the gospel of peace**
  - “if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard” (v23)
    - Those for whom God has made peace, those headed toward sanctification and glory, will continue in the gospel of peace.
      - “if indeed you continue in the faith... not shifting from the hope of the gospel...”

### Summary:

Let us praise God for making peace... through the profound death of His Son!

Let us marvel at God’s purpose for peace... making believers Christ-like in His presence!

And may God help us continue in the gospel of peace... not shifting from this sure foundation of our hope.

Through the person and work of Christ, God has made peace between Himself and wretched sinners who continually embrace the gospel.

## (4) SOME APPLICATION QUESTIONS

### 1. Do you have peace with God?

- a. If you are a natural born enemy of God, why do you think you have peace with Him now?

### 2. Do you believe the message of Christmas?

- a. Do you believe God made peace with sinners by the blood of His Son?

### 3. Are you continuing in the gospel of peace?

- a. Are you bored with the gospel?
- b. Or are you still fascinated by it and clinging to it?

Through the person and work of Christ, God has made peace between Himself and wretched sinners who continually embrace the gospel.

## **SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR THIS PASSAGE/TOPIC**

---

*What is Peace with God?* by Edward Dalcour

<https://christiandefense.org/general/what-is-peace-with-god/>

*Jesus Christ the Son, Creator of All Things* by Edward Dalcour

<https://christiandefense.org/trinity/jesus-christ-the-son-creator-of-all-things/>

*Reconciled to God* by John MacArthur

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/2136>

*Incomparable Christ* by J. Ligon Duncan

<https://www.fpcjackson.org/resource-library/sermons/the-incomparable-christ-exposition-of-colossians-v>