



Peace
be with You

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19–31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them

and said, “Peace be with you!”

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side.

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

April 8, 2018

Thought for the Week

Why don't Christians use the phrase “Peace be with you” today?

or

should we be asking why we don't follow Christ's teachings today?

Are you the type of Christian who builds their house on the sand? Luke 6: 46-49 “So why do you keep calling me ‘Lord, Lord!’ when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house that digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.”

James 1: 22-25 “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do”

We can have an awareness of all biblical doctrines, we can know all the theological terms, we may be able to translate the Bible from the original Greek and so on, but when we get serious about living for Jesus we have to walk the walk, not just talk the talk. If we hear the word and then straightaway forget it (or worse still ignore it) then, instead of “Well done thou good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25: 21 and 23) we will hear the words “I never knew you”

Matthew 21:28 “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ “I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the

prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him." King Solomon, for all his wisdom, never found Salvation because of disobedience to God. God bless <)))><

Peace be with you

In Bible times, just as we do today, people have standard greetings when they meet each other. We would probably say "Good morning" or "Have a nice day", both are intended to speak some kind of a blessing into that person's life.

The Jews used the expression "Shalom", which is often translated "Peace", but carries more of the idea of "blessing". So the closest modern equivalent would probably be "Be blessed" or "God bless you".

The Greeks used the expression "Grace", which again was speaking of "blessing" into a person's life. If you read the writing of Paul, you will find that as he often wrote to an audience of both Jews and gentiles, he begins each of his letters with the phrase "Grace and Peace", using the "blessing" of both culture.

You probably know that today we do not often enough speak a "blessing" on those around us. It is something that it would not hurt (and would actual help) if we were to do it. If nothing else, it might make us think a little more about how we can "bless" that person.

May God Bless you all with the "Peace that passes all understanding".

“Peace Be with You”

"On the evening of that first day of the week," according to the Gospel of John, "when the doors were locked, where the disciples were ... Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' "To his closest followers, who feared that they too would suffer crucifixion, Jesus stood in their midst on Easter Sunday, and shared with them his peace. But the peace Jesus offered them, and us, is greatly different from the "peace" offered by the world.

The secular world's view of peace is often referred to as "peace through strength" – meaning military strength. Its proponents claim that when their nation is overwhelmingly militarily powerful, potential opponents are too afraid to confront its military might. The classic example of this view was the Pax Romana or so called Roman Peace, which lasted approximately 200 years – including the time of Christ. During that period there was little warfare taking place within the Roman Empire – largely because of Rome's military iron-grip on its conquered territories.

But Jesus came to liberate us with his peace – the only true and lasting peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27). The Hebrew word for peace is shalom. But shalom conveys much more than an end to armed hostilities. Shalom means wholeness, health, welfare and safety. This fuller meaning of peace, this shalom, is also a roadmap to ending war and other forms of violence. If we work to help everyone achieve the basic needs of health, welfare and safety the likelihood of engaging in armed conflicts and other forms of violence greatly decreases.

An oft-quoted phrase of Pope Paul VI was, "If you want peace, work for justice." That was the title of his Jan. 1, 1972 Day of Peace message. And in that message he explained that peace is rooted in a sincere feeling for humanity. "A peace that is not the result of true respect for man is not true peace. And what do we call this sincere feeling for man? We call it justice."

And the virtue of justice calls out to each person, and every nation, to work so as to ensure that every human being has adequate access to the spiritual, economic, political, educational, medical and cultural benefits due to daughters and sons of a gracious God.

We as Christians need to accept this virtue of justice for all on behalf of the poor and vulnerable, to actively engage in the political, economic and cultural arenas of society.

Genuine peace is the work of justice. But we cannot possibly accomplish it relying solely on our own efforts. We need to invite the wisdom and power of the risen Jesus – the source of peace – to fill our lives and direct our actions.

"Peace be with you."