



# Shalom: Discovered in Jesus Christ

## Colossians 1:15-20

---

Expositor's Class

Prepared by: Joaquim Da Silva Fragoso

Sunday, May 1, 4pm at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“The Gospel speaks. Listen to it, or read it. But that’s little enough, being the creator before Abraham; he’s the creator before Adam, creator before heaven and earth, before all the angels, and the whole spiritual creation, ‘thrones, dominions, principalities and powers,’ creator before all things whatsoever.”

– **Aurelius Augustine, Bishop of Hippo**

### **Perfect Peace**

John Henry Newman wrote perceptively: “These things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.’ What is fullness of joy but *peace*? Joy is tumultuous only when it is not full; but peace is the privilege of those who are ‘filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.’ ‘Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusts in Thee.’”<sup>1</sup>

We are all seekers of peace. We think that we can obtain peace if we achieve our goals. Quite often we get frustrated because we haven’t achieved our goal. Also when we achieve our goal we still at times lack peace. There is always something that we keep on looking for. Because of sin we lack peace in our conscience. Even the apostle Paul lacked peace at times. Remember when he said “<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Romans 7:24). We can all relate to that. There is only one that can bring peace. Instead of looking to Him, we look to people, places and things.

---

<sup>1</sup> Jones, G. C. (1986). *1000 illustrations for preaching and teaching* (pp. 272–273). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

## Propositional Statement

God's ultimate provision of peace is discovered in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is only through Christ that peace with God can be achieved and maintained.

(Let's pray)

**Outline:** Christ's peace rests on three pillars here in our text: His person, His preeminence, and his power to reconcile.

- Look at Christ's **person**: he is the image of the Invisible God, Col. 1:15.
- Look at Christ's **preeminence**, Col. 1:16-19
- Look at Christ's **power** to bring reconciliation, Col. 1: 19-20

## Introduction

Thank you for being here today. I'm very glad that you are here. This afternoon we are looking at a message entitled: "Shalom: Discovered in Jesus Christ".

The passage we are going to be looking was written by the Apostle Paul and Timothy. They wrote this letter to the saints and faithful brother in Colossae. Today I want to deliver this message to the saints and faithful brothers here at Living Hope Bible Church.

Please open your Bibles to Colossians 1:15-20.

## Reading of Holy Scripture

**Colossians 1:15-20**, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

## Transition: Two Minutes' Peace Yearly

The Armistice after World War I was signed on November 11, 1918. I was talking with Christine's Grandma and she was remembering the ceremony that would occur on November 11. They thought that World War I was the war that would cease all wars.

In a sense there is a war that was fought once and for all. A kingdom that was inaugurated that will last forever. This kingdom is the reign of Christ. Reconciliation between man and God that there is no end.

Christian reconciliation is not simply an Armistice, a ceasing of war for a period of time, but a reconciliation of those who broke the covenant with God, that once were his enemies, by being hostile in mind, doing evil deeds.

Since the the armistice after World War I, for every year of war there have been two minutes of peace.<sup>2</sup>

## The reign of David

---

<sup>2</sup> Tan, P. L. (1996). *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (p. 991). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.

Before we go to our first point I want to bring to our attention to King David. Remember when he sinned against God? When he saw the wife of Uriah bathing, and she was beautiful at his eyes and he went and raped her? Then later he murdered her husband?

Here is the sentence he received from the prophet Nathan. Prophets in those days were those who brought a word direct from the Lord and here is what he said to David.

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. <sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord, ‘Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. (2 Sa 12:10).

Because of this sin with Uriah's wife the son that David had died. Beloved, sin always brings conflict: the opposite of peace.

### **Solomon's Birth**

<sup>24</sup> Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the Lord loved him (2 Sa 12:24).

Solomon's name comes from the word shalom. The meaning of the word shalom is peace. The kind of peace shalom represents is a whole peace, total peace, universal peace. That's the peace we are talking about. It's not that our life will be easier and more peaceful, but that we are going to have God as our friend. And God, our friend is reconciling the whole cosmos, the whole creation back to himself.

## **I. Look at Christ's person: He is the image of the Invisible God (Col. 1:15).**

### **Jesus is the Son of God**

We all know the attributes of God. He is eternal. All powerful. There is nothing out of God's control. God is all knowing. There is nothing that God doesn't know. God is just. God is merciful. God is all present. That means that God is fully present everywhere all the time. God is invisible. That means that no one has seen God. Yet there is someone who is the image of the invisible God.

How can something that is invisible have an image? These things are too complex for us. How can we believe in such an astonishing thing? (Selah)... Only by the power of the Holy Spirit in us that we can come to peace with this mystery!

### **Jesus is our Deliverer from Darkness**

Stop here with me. There is something that we need to remember. This letter was written for a reason. You cannot leave here today without knowing why all these things were said. Let's read a few verses from **Colossians 1:11-14**, “May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Paul's message and Timothy message matches all the others apostles message like 1 Peter 3:  
<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit (1 Pe 3:18).

### **Illustration:**

A will, to have an effect, is only after the person who wrote the will dies. Then those who inherit the will are able to receive their inheritance, and benefit from the will. In the case of Jesus, his will was to do the Father's will. And the Father's will was that Jesus would obey him, even to the point of dying on the cross, to redeem a people to Himself. And once he died, that will took effect, and it's in effect until today.

### **Application**

Dear saints. It's been over 2 thousand years since the first coming of Christ, and that will is still valid. Since then, all of those that put their faith in Christ is justified before God and has received grace upon grace.

## **Jesus is the Firstborn of All Creation**

### **Explanation**

Jesus Christ is Lord of time. He is the firstborn of all creation. That's why he has the authority to say that before Abraham was I am. Clearly he is the Son of God. Clearly Jesus share every single attribute of God.

### **Illustration**

Augustine: "... the Gospel speaks. Listen to it, or read it. But that's little enough, being the creator before Abraham; he's the creator before Adam, creator before heaven and earth, before all the angels, and the whole spiritual creation, "thrones, dominions, principalities and powers," creator before all things whatsoever." Sermons 290.2.<sup>3</sup>

### **Application**

We cannot comprehend what it is like not to be limited by time. Jesus is Lord of time. He is not bound by time. Nothing can limit his power. In his deity he is the same yesterday today and tomorrow. He is present at all times. Nothing can change who he is.

### **Transition**

Dear brothers, I bring this message to you, so that you walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. Fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. I will have to go through some verses a little faster because unlike God. I am bound by time.

---

<sup>3</sup> Gorday., 16.

## II. Look at Christ's **preeminence** (Col. 1:16-19).

### **Jesus is our Creator**

#### **Explanation**

God creates through his word. Jesus is the word of God. Everything that has been created was through Jesus. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! (Ro 11:33).

#### **Holy Scripture**

**Colossians 1:16-17**, "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. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

#### **Application**

Jesus is worthy of all our worship. We are who we are because of him. You are here today, because you were created to worship Jesus.

### **Jesus is our Master and Leader**

#### **Holy Scripture**

**Colossians 1:18**, "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."

#### **Illustration**

Jesus identify with his people. That's why he had to become man. The first man, Adam, was the representative of all human kind and all creation. when he sinned, every human being was cursed. Even the whole creation was cursed.

#### **Application**

Jesus is the second Adam. He is the representative of all of those who puts their faith in Him. Unlike Adam, Jesus showed his superiority when he obeyed God even at the point of death. Being the firstborn from the dead. All these things happened so that he might have the first place. Jesus holds the highest rank. He is the way that leads sinners back to God.

#### **Transition**

How can sinners stand before God and not die? How can God be Just and not punish those who sinned against God? When the fullness of time had come, God sent his son, born of a woman. The climax of time had come. The word of God had become flesh and dwelt among men.

### III. Look at Christ's power to bring **reconciliation** (Col. 1: 19-20). **Jesus is our Prince of Peace**

#### **Explanation**

Throughout the whole history of humanity after the fall. There has been no peace. The relationship between God and men was destroyed forever. Even today it's hard to find peace. There is war every single day. Even now for those who are in Christ. There is a battle every single day. We need to fight against our own sin. If you want to find peace, you need the power of the Holy Spirit - Christ in you.

**Col. 1:19-20**, "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

#### **Illustration: Life and Peace**

A man has found himself when he has found his relation to the rest of the universe, and here is the book (the Bible) in which those relations are set forth. And so when you see a man going along the highways of life with his gaze lifted above the road, lifted to the sloping ways in front of him, then be careful of that man and get out of his way. He knows the kingdom for which he is bound. He has seen the revelation of himself and of relations to mankind. He has seen the revelation of his relation to God his Maker, and therefore he has seen his responsibility to the world. This is the revelation of life and of peace. —Woodrow Wilson<sup>4</sup>

#### **Application**

My desire for when you go about living your life is that you go in peace. That you have an assurance of the hope that is in you. If you are not yet a believer. I pray to God that your heart goes burning like hell, until you find yourself at the foot of the cross.

#### **Explanation**

I believe that mature christians are those who have found true peace. I also believe that those who find true peace are only those who truly knows the Lord. Because it is the triune God that comes down to give peace to whomever he pleases.

#### **Illustration: King Solomon**

Let's go back David's son, Solomon. "King Solomon, whose very name, *shelo -mo-h*, is derived from the term *shlôm*. God told King David to name his son "Solomon" after shalom, for God would "grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign." God kept his word, so that by the time Solomon dedicated the first temple, he could claim that "now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; and there is no adversary or disaster." (1 King 5:4).<sup>5</sup>

#### **Application:**

Solomon clearly understood that the continued prosperity of his empire depended on his ability to keep the peace. In an eloquent psalm he wisely asked God for the ability to lead his

---

<sup>4</sup> Jones, G. C. (1986). 1000 illustrations for preaching and teaching (pp. 218–219). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>5</sup> Wittmer, M. E. (2009). Heaven is a place on earth. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

people with justice and righteousness, for he knew that his society must guard the rights of all its citizens to experience the shalom of God.<sup>6</sup>

Studying the instruction that the Israelites received to educate their children, we find that peace is something to be desired. That's why generation after generation would bless their children by saying:

<sup>24</sup> The Lord bless you and keep you;  
<sup>25</sup> the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
<sup>26</sup> the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers  
6:24-26

Because King Solomon was able to maintain peace in his kingdom, Israel enjoyed prosperity. King Solomon's riches and wisdom was greater than all the other kings of the earth. 1 kings 10:1-10.<sup>7</sup> but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. <sup>8</sup> Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!

### **Yet, Jesus is greater than Solomon!**

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.”  
(Luke 2:14).

Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, has come to restore universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight to every corner of his sin-damaged creation.<sup>7</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Peace always comes with a price. The ultimate peace price is the blood of the cross. This image of God that we see here in Colossians, must worship. One day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

### **Last but not least:**

To summarize: the entirety of God’s original creation, from the highest human to the lowest larva, enjoyed shalom—the universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight that only comes when every creature is playing its part in the interconnectedness of creation. When sin spoiled this shalom, Jesus Christ, the Creator of this once-perfect world, responded by returning to the world he had made in order to remove the curse of sin and save the planet. His kingdom brings the recovery of shalom. People, animals, and the earth, formerly at odds with one another, find that once again they are connected by fruitful bonds that enable them and every corner of creation to thrive and prosper.<sup>8</sup>

Shalom - Go in peace.

---

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.