

## A TIME OF REFLECTION

[Pastor Gene Henderson edited by Pastor Pier]

People who do not believe the Bible is inspired by God point to contradictions in the Scriptures. And they will always be able to find some. In fact, some passages are difficult even for believers. Here's an example.

*For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

*“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”* Matthew 10:34 (NIV)

If the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, how do we make sense of Jesus' comment in Matthew? Does that sound like a statement made by someone called the “*Prince of Peace*?” And it sounds like a cop-out to say, “*Well, it all depends on what you mean by 'peace.'*”

But that is exactly what needs to be said. Was Isaiah talking about political peace, the peace between nations? Or was he talking about personal peace between you and God? Ultimately, both. According to John's vision in Revelation 19, Jesus will establish a rule of peace between all nations and tribes, but there are specific pre-conditions. One of those is the picture of Jesus riding a white war-horse and wielding a sword that destroys all the enemies of God's Kingdom. *When those who seek power rather than peace are vanquished, there will be peace on Earth.*

When we see Jesus as the One Who came to restore peace between us and God – something we will develop in another conversation – we discover the pre-condition to personal peace – *surrender of our will to His.* Kind of like when He surrendered His will to His Heavenly Father's will in Gethsemane. Prince of Peace indeed. Matthew 16:24-26:

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

# Welcome!

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so they can have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way.”*

### SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM

Unity in Prayer: 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Wednesday – Bible Study: 7:00 PM; & Kid's Club

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*



**Wednesday Bible Study** – John 17. Come as we learn how Jesus prays for His own.

Kid's Club & Youth in the basement, learning about the Lord.

**Valentine's Dinner** – Friday February 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM. Please read the bulletin insert and if you have any question, please see Raúl Rosario. We encourage all to plan to attend.

**Women's Group** will be meeting February 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday evening at 6:00 PM here at the church. We welcome all ladies and hope you plan to attend.

**Flagging Practice** – these will begin anew on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM prior to Bible study. March 1<sup>st</sup> will be cancelled. Please see Debbie for any questions

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