

FINDING PEACE

Psalm 119:165 ... "Great peace have those who love your [God's] law, and nothing causes them to stumble."

One of the most common desires of people since man was created until today, is the desire for peace. Peace between nations, peace between different people groups living within nations, and peace between family member and friends. The word "peace" in today's verse is translated from the Hebrew language it was originally written in, as "safety." So, that narrows the meaning of the entire verse. It is not speaking of peace in your heart, or your peace with God. It is speaking specifically about your peace with other people. The full message of today's verse, if you will allow me to paraphrase it, is: "To achieve safety (peace) between people and nations, you must love and obey God's commandments. If you do that, you will not fail to be safe (peaceful)."

We all want to enjoy the calmness and safety that a peaceful barangay, municipality, province and nation could afford us. To that end, we have peace councils, peace negotiations, peace treaties, and peace advocates. Books are written about peace. People discuss it on television. It is spoken of in churches and mosques. There is no end to the discussions and desires for peace, but also no end to the bitterness, rebellion, disagreements, and hostilities that make peace allusive. There has never been a peaceful period on the face of the earth since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. According to Bible prophecies, there never will be peace until Christ returns and removes those who oppose God, the sole author and guarantor of peace.

If you can achieve some form of peace among your neighbors, within your family, among your fellow countrymen, and with other nations, terrific. Do your best to create peace. Christ will be pleased with your efforts, even if the product of your attempt is temporary or unproductive. If you desire peace, please be an advocate for it to those around you. But, do not be discouraged and do not resent God if peace cannot be achieved, or it is only temporary. The enemy of God, the devil, is a formidable power who opposes all forms of peace.

Any peace achieved by committees of men or the United Nations, between nations, or between rebel groups, will not last, nor will it long deliver safety to people who have suffered under the threat of violence – IF – any one person involved in the peace process rejects the authority of the one true God, our Heavenly Father, and does not love him above all others. Pray for and pursue peace, but know that it cannot be achieved in a full or lasting measure until Christ returns.

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