


We Worship the Prince of Peace

Luke 2:8-14

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Triangle Community Church aims to be a “transforming church”. We exist to be used by God as He transforms ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ. TCC believes not only that life-change is possible—but that it is to be expected. Growth is God's will for his people. But transformation does not happen by accident. It requires intentional, intelligent, action. I Timothy 4:7 instructs you to “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” Since “**Talking Points, Walking Points**” is intended both for individual reflection and for group discussion, questions vary in degree of vulnerability required. Generally it is best to begin group discussions with questions which involve less personal disclosure—but don't linger there. Be sure to “dive deep” too! The questions which require the greatest openness and honesty, as well as those in the section entitled “**Suggestions for Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time**”, are perfect for private reflection.

Questions for Reflection

- Pastor Doug posed this question: *"How many of us can **honestly** say that our **primary** emotion during the Christmas season is a **prevailing** sense of peace?"* How would **you** answer that?
- Review the **four levels of peace** Jesus offers (see Sermon Summary).
The fourth level awaits Jesus' return, but of the first three, **which ones** do you **regularly** experience?

Without Christ, is it possible to be "at peace with God"? Why or why not? Support your answer biblically.

Is it possible for the hostility between us and God to have been **objectively** resolved ("Level 1"), yet not yet to **experience** that peace **subjectively** ("Level 3")? If so, explain

How does the world "fake" each of those four levels of peace, without experiencing the real thing?
When have you done that?

- Our response to Jesus' coming, and the peace that he provides, is to worship.
What are some **concrete ways** we can more meaningfully worship Christ for the spiritual, social, psychological, and geopolitical peace he provides?

Take a moment now to do so.

Need help and hope this Christmas season?
Let a biblical counselor help!
counseling@tcc.org

Application-Challenge

- This Christmas season, let's not allow ourselves to get caught up in all of the anxiety that often accompanies this time of the year.
- Instead, and let's join the angels of heaven and the shepherds of the field, by worshipping Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Sermon Summary

The Christmas season is supposed to be a time of peace and good will toward mankind. But too often that is anything but the case. How many of you can honestly say that your primary emotion during this season is a prevailing sense of peace? We need to remedy that! We need to worship more, spend less. Give more, love more. Jesus beckons us (Matthew 11:28; John 14:27). Luke 2:8-14 shows us the way.

Why did Jesus come? Why did He step out of heaven and take on human flesh? He came to bring us peace (Luke 2:14; cf. Ephesians 6:15). But what sort of the peace that Jesus came to bring? The peace Jesus offers impacts us on **four levels**. **[1] Spiritual Peace** In Christ we are offered peace with God. Now that may not seem like a big deal to you, until you consider the alternative! (Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:1-2). But Jesus also offers social peace by uniting people of all backgrounds into one spiritual family, the family of God—**[2] Social Peace** You can visit a church in Kenya or Mexico and have an instant social connection with the people you meet there. Your skin color may be different, your political leanings may be different, your cultural affinities may be different, but all of those things pale in significance to the bond you share in Christ (Ephesians 2:14-15, 18-19). In addition to spiritual peace and social peace, Jesus also offers us... **[3] Psychological Peace**. All psychological problems, with the exception of those with organic origins, have spiritual roots. We were created to live in a perfect environment, and yet because sin has entered into the system, we are forced to live in a fallen, imperfect world. And that inevitably leads to some degree of psychological trauma. This trauma is worsened when we try to manage life apart from God. God didn't create us to live independently from Him. We weren't designed to be self-sufficient and autonomous, and yet many of us persist in trying to go at it alone! (James 4:8; Philippians 4:6-7). But the peace God gives transcends all understanding and will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, Jesus came to provide **[4] Geopolitical Peace** When Jesus returns He will set up a worldwide kingdom over which He will reign as king. His coming will initiate a time of unparalleled peace—there will be no wars, no conflicts (Isaiah 9:6-7 cf. 2:4; 32:16-18; 65:19-25). Peace and abundance. Church, this is our future! This is what Christ, the Prince of Peace, will bring to us at His second coming. This is our destiny! It is no wonder that on that first Christmas morning the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

So, **how should we respond** in light of his coming? We should worship Him! We were created to worship. We are at our highest and best when we worship. Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth. True worship involves the heart and the head, the emotions as well as the intellect. It begins by acknowledging God's worth—His greatness, His goodness to us. As we contemplate the various dimensions of peace Christ brings us, it should move us to express our gratitude and praise back to Him. Worship is reflected in many ways: in singing and serving, in preaching and praying, in baptism and the Lord's Supper. Worship involves living your life joyfully for the glory of God, making Him the center of all that you do. This Christmas season, let's not allow ourselves to get caught up in all of the anxiety that often accompanies this time of the year. Let's join the angels of heaven and the shepherds of the field, by worshipping Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Talking To God About This Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, today I want to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, *"What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?"*, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Suggestions for Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any passage.
We can use it to explore the worship of God...

Monday— Psalm 100:1-5

Tuesday— Psalm 136:1-9

Wednesday— Psalm 136:10-22

Thursday— Psalm 136:23-26

Friday— Psalm 118:1-29

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord
with your church family on Sunday, January 6,*** please read Revelation chapter 1.

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?