

the TAKE HOME 12.20.15

Today's Scripture Passage: Isaiah 9:1-7, John 14:27

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1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-- 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 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**. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Define peace in your own words.
2. What distinguishes Jesus' peace from the world's peace? (Jn 14:27)
3. If Jesus is the Prince of Peace, how do we explain His statement, "Do not suppose I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword..."? (Matt 10:34)
4. Why does Jesus' peace transcend all understanding?
5. What are the differences between peace-keeping and peace-making?

Prayer

1. Pray that our unity as a church family will be the result of a peace fashioned out of righteousness.
2. Pray that our community will thirst for the gift of peace which Jesus offers.
3. Pray for family gatherings over the holiday.
4. Pray for those separated from or without families.