

John Gipson is among the best writers of our time. He addresses, in an elegantly terse manner, issues that are biblical, theological, philosophical, and intersecting, from time-to-time, with apologetics. His writing is extremely practical and polished. Though penned fifty years ago, the following article is powerfully timely for this moment in history. It is one of 300 articles included in the commemorative volume, *Living: Principles on Living the Christian Life—A 50-Year Collection of Articles* by John Gipson, published in 2019 by The Jenkins Institute (thejenkinsinstitute.com).

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The Promise of Peace

Are we drowning in a sea of troubles? Look at the chaos we reap because of man's inhumanity to man. Consider the depths of degradation in this dark world of sin. With sorrows flooding our souls, we vainly struggle to meet life's pressing duties. With Byron, the poet, we are apt to cry, "*Oh that the desert were my dwelling place!*"

How many people do you know that are suffering from some nervous disorder . . . have had a nervous breakdown . . . or "*are planning to have one,*" as soon as they can save up enough money to afford it?

Into such a world torn with strife came the Prince of Peace. The night that Mary brought forth her firstborn son there were shepherds abiding in the field who heard an angel say, "*Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy.*" And suddenly, "*there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward man*" (Luke 2:14). Throughout his life this stranger from the shores of Galilee brought a welcome light with rays of peace into the dark corners of the world. He reminded his disciples that, whenever they entered a house, they should say, "*Peace be to this house*" (Luke 10:5).

But eventually this hostile world snuffed out the life of this peace-loving man by nailing him to a cross. His disciples fled in fear. A few days later they huddled behind a locked door. They were gripped by fear. A step on the stairs, a knock on the door might signal their arrest by emissaries of the Sanhedrin. Knowing the bitterness of the Jews, their lives were standing in jeopardy. But suddenly . . . Jesus came into their midst breathing a benediction, "*Peace be with you.*" Once again,

As on the Sea of Galilee,
The Christ is whispering "Peace."

No longer will they crouch in fear. No longer will their hearts be troubled. They will be afflicted in every way and sometimes perplexed. They will be persecuted and struck down, but they will not lose heart. For the peace which Christ brings is superior to the storms of life. It is a peace with God and a peace within one's self. It is heaven's perfect peace.

Christ only has the answer. So into the world they went, "*Preaching peace by Jesus Christ*" (Acts 10:36).

- John Gipson, 29 January, 1970, Little Rock, AR

- via Warren Christian Apologetics Center, Parkersburg, WV -

Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.

News & Notes

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY TO RESUME: This coming Wednesday, **June 10th, 7:00 p.m.** Auditorium class only. Up Front class for the young as a portion of each second Wednesday Bible class.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS: Carol Northcraft (Weirton Hts. congregation). Carol has a recurrence of cancer. Her address: 202 Miller Ave., Weirton, WV 26062.

SHUT-INS: Randy Beagle, Alex Harless, Russell Martin, Mary Jane Bowers. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl, 1745 Pointe West Way, Vero Beach, FL 32966.

The God of Hope

Mankind has made up many gods. As a result, their hearts have been filled with fear, hatred, hopelessness and doom, but the God of the Bible is called "The God of hope." "*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*" Romans 15:13.

If we desire lasting joy and peace, it is only available through the God of hope. If we want to abound in hope, it is only available through the power of the Holy Spirit. And all of this comes through faith - believing and trusting in God's word. Paul is not referring here to salvation based on faith alone - he is addressing Christians, and encouraging them to continue in faith. They have already been saved and he addresses them as "brethren" in the next verse, Romans 15:14. The stronger our faith, the more we will be filled with joy and peace, and abound (have more than enough) in hope.

We Christians overflow with hope because we serve the God of Hope.

Don't be discouraged. Trust in God. He will fill you with hope.

- Rick Laing, *Bulletin Digest* -

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." - Psalm 31:24

"A Better Life" Narrow Minded?

Often the Christian may be accused of being narrow-minded because he insists that we MUST completely obey Christ. Yet, all of life is narrow. There is no room for broad-mindedness in the chemical laboratory. Water is composed of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. Deviation is forbidden. There is no room for broad-mindedness in music. There are only eight notes in an octave. In the mathematics classroom, things are narrow. Geometry, calculus, nor trigonometry allows zero variation from accuracy. The solution to the problem is either right or it is wrong. On the athletic field the game is played by the rules.

How then, shall we expect that broad-mindedness shall rule in the realm of Christianity and morals?

- Paul Sain, *Bulletin Digest* -