

I. TWO BIBLICAL CONCEPTS

A. PEACE (Rom.5:1)

1. a STATE of being (see 1Kngs.4:25, Mic.4:4, Zech.3:10; see Jn.1:48,50)
2. total well-being (Ps.122:6,7; 125:5; 128:6; Jer.29:11)
3. a gift from God alone (Ps.85:8; 2Cor.5:18; Col.1:20; Phil.4:7; 2Th.3:16; see Rom.1:7,etc.)
4. is found with...
 - a. righteousness (Ps.85:10; Is.9:7; 32:17,18; 60:17)
 - b. justice (Zech.8:16; Is.9:7; 59:8; see Rom.5:1)
5. the covenant of peace (Mal.2:5; see Ezk.34:25; 37:26; Rev., esp.c.20-22)
6. description of God (Rom.15:33; 16:20; 1Cor.14:33; Phil.4:9; 1Thes.5:23; see Rom.1:7,etc.)
7. descriptive of Christ as Savior (Is.9:6,7(Heb.7:2); 53:5; Eph.2:14,17; Lk.1:79; 2:14; see 2Th.3:16)

B. RECONCILIATION (Rom.5:10,11)

1. a CHANGE of state
2. a complete change: re-creation (2Cor.5:17,18; see Is.65:17; 66:22 = Rev.21:1f)
3. *has been* ACCOMPLISHED (Rom.5:1,2,10; 2Cor.5:18a,19a; Eph.2:13f; Col.1:20)
4. *has been* APPLIED to believers (Rom.5:11; 2Cor.5:17f; Eph.2:18; Col.1:21,22)
5. *is being* OFFERED to nonbelievers (2Cor.5:18b,19b,20; see Lk.24:47; Acts 13:38; 26:18)

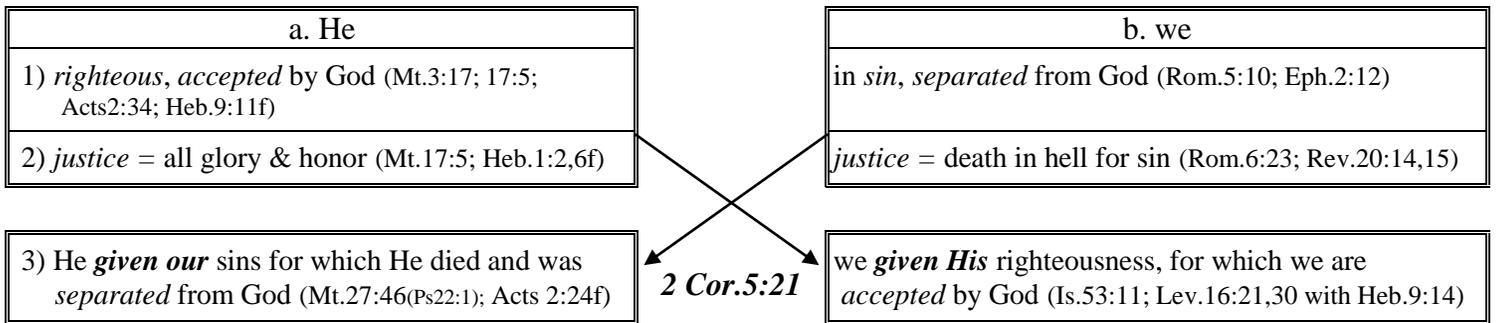
II. THE GOSPEL OF PEACE (2Cor.5:18,19; Acts 10:35,36; Eph.2:17; 6:15)

A. THE UNIVERSAL NEED OF PEACE: THE SIN OF MAN

1. kings and kingdoms at war (Acts 26:18; Col.1:13; see Dan.7:21; Rev.11:7; 12:7; 13:7; c.19,20)
2. Satan’s invasion, capture and occupation (Gen.3:1,13; 2Cor.4:4; Eph.2:2; 6:12; 1Jn.5:19)
3. our natural-born state: in sin, separated from the righteous God and at war with Him
 - a. enemies (Rom.5:10; Col.1:21; Jms.4:4)
 - b. children of God’s wrath (Eph.2:3; 2Pt.2:14d)
 - 1) sons of Satan (Jn.8:44; 1Jn.3:8)
 - 2) sons of disobedience (Eph.2:2(3); 5:6)
 - c. subjects of Satan’s kingdom (Col.1:13; Acts 26:18; Jms.4:4)
4. our need is complete: helpless (Rom.5:6; Eph.2:1,12; see Gen.2:17; 3:24)

B. THE SINGLE MEANS OF PEACE: THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

1. decisive battle
 - a. victory secured (Gen.3:15; Mt.4:1f; Jn.12:31,32; 1Jn.3:8; Heb.2:14; 1Cor.15:54-56; see Rev.12:5f)
 - b. enemies reconciled (Rom.5:10; 2Cor.5:18f; Eph.2:13f)
2. mechanics: substitution (2Cor.5:21; see Lev.16:21f; “the blessed exchange”)



3. result: sin, the cause of separation is removed (Col.1:13,14; 20-22)
 - a. friends: reconciled enemies (Rom.5:10)
 - b. subjects of the kingdom of God (Col.1:13; Acts 26:18)
 - c. children of God (1Jn.3:1; Eph.1:5(2:3); Rom.8:15,16)
 - d. heirs of God (Col.1:12f; Rom.8:17; Eph.1:11,14,18)

III. SEEK PEACE WITH GOD! (Ps.34:14=1Pt.3:11; Lk.11:9f)

A. SEEK PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! (Eph.2:1-3; Rom.5:1; 2C5:21)

B. GOD HIMSELF IS CALLING YOU TO BE RECONCILED TO HIM (2C5:20 /Ezk.3:16f,27; 33:2f,11)

C. REPENTANCE FROM SIN & FAITH IN CHRIST FOR FORGIVENESS & RIGHTEOUSNESS INTO PEACE (2Cor.5:21; Rom.5:1-10; Acts 2:37f; Ps.85:10 /Lord’s Supper; 1Cor.11:17f)

D. ONLY ONE ALTERNATIVE! (Jn.14:6; Acts 4:12; Ps.2:12; Mt.3:7, Lk.3:7, 1Th.1:10; 2:16; Rev20:15 /Ezk33:11)

E. BE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST OFFERING TERMS OF PEACE (2Cor.5:20,21; see Eph.6:20; Is.33:7; Acts 7:26)

Brethren, what shall WE DO? (see Acts 2:37f)