

Preach April 28

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Eph: 2:14

For he is our Peace =

Acts 2:36. Now is Christ made King

The Word which God sent to the Children of Israel,
Preaching Peace by Jesus Christ.

A sense of Guilt, natural to Mankind, and flows
from a Conscience, that we have violated the Law of
God our Supreme & Rightful Sovereign. Whether ^{He} God would
forgive sin, was a secret concealed in the Breast of the
almighty, till he saw meet to make a gracious Revolution
of his Will. The Voice of unperverted Reason, teaches us
that the Transgression of the divine Command, lays us
under the Imputation of Guilt, & Guilt exposes us to Con-
demnation.

The Law pronounced Sentence of Death, against every
one that transgressed its righteous Precepts, And Justice
certainly required, that the Honor of the Divine Government
should be maintained, & sin followed with a just & certain
Punishment. The Angels were rejected for their first Rebellion, &
are detained in Chains of Darkness to the Judgment of the
great Day. And Had Rebelling Man been treated with equal
Severity, he had only received the just Desert of his Crime, and
the Justice of God would have remained unsolicited forever.

It was unmerited Mercy that made a distinction
between the Apostate Spirit of Heaven, and the Inhabitants of
this lower Earth. God gave early Notice of his Compassionate
Design to our first Parents in Paradise, ^{but} more clearly would
the Intention of his Grace, under the different Dispensations
of

the Church. But the clearest discovery of the Love of God
to Mankind, the fullest Revelation of pardoning Mercy
was made by Jesus Christ. The Design of his Coming and
Kingdom, was to Preach ^{Peace} to a guilty and apostate World
as we are informed by St. Peter in the Words of my Text.

The Words are a Confirmation of that comfortable
Truth, which the Apostle had delivered in the preceding
Verses. — That God is no respecter of Persons &c. — His Eye had
been blinded by the common Prejudices of his Nation, but he
now perceived, that was the meaning, of that Word, which God
sent to the Children of Israel, Preaching Peace by Jesus Christ,
the Messenger of Divine Grace. — The Impediment of Peace to a
sinful World, Not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles.
The Observations I shall discourse upon from these
Words may be reduced to the two following Heads —

First Sin has engaged us in a destructive war with
Heaven.

Secondly Jesus Christ came to publish the glad tidings of Peace.
Sin has engaged us in a destructive war with Heaven.

Man while innocent enjoyed Peace with God, an uninterrupted
serenity in his own Mind, and an inviolable Friendship with all
the Creatures about him. But alas! the Felicity of Man was
but of short continuance, he hearkened to the Solicitations of
Satan the Enemy of God & Goodness, & violated the Positive Com-
mands of the Great Author of his Being. Immediately the
Purity of his immortal Spirit was impaired, the moral
Perfections of his Nature lost, and the amiable Image of his
Maker defaced and destroyed by Sin. The Displeasure of God
was kindled by the Disobedience of Man. The inevitable Sen-
tence of Death, was pronounced upon the guilty offender. The Right-
eous Governor of the World, determined not to be at Peace, ^{without}

just Satisfaction ~~was~~ made to his violated Justice.

In consequence of this Man who had hitherto dwelt, in
the Bosom of divine Love, & conversed familiarly ^{the Majesty of Heaven} with his Maker,
at his generous and condescending Friend; now humbled at
the Voice of God, was ashamed at the Sight of his own Naked-
ness, & vainly attempted to conceal himself from the Eyes of
Omnipotence among the trees of the Garden of Eden. Paradise
with all its attractive Glories, its alluring Delights, could not lead
him from the Terms of his guilty Mind, & the Apprehensions of De-
served Wrath. Thus War commenced between Heaven and Earth
between the Creator and his Creature, Man.

Nothing could be more unjustifiable and foolish, ^{than this unmeasured rebellion} What
Madness for desperate Wounds of the Death, to take up Arms against
the Omnipotent Sovereign of the Universe, & Brian and Thomas to
contend with devouring Fire. Were all the Angels of Heaven
our Apostles, and all the Inhabitants of the Earth united in
a Confederacy with us, he could by a Word of his Countermand
demand them to their Original Nothing, and by the single Act of
his will transmit them, to unalterable Misery. — But the Case
was directly the contrary. — If in a well ordered Government
when the Prince is offended, all the faithful Subjects take part in
the Quarrel, & appear in Arms to avenge the ^{honour} of his
injured Authority: So the heavenly Hosts being so much
affronted by the Rebellion of Man, Universal War was kindled
in his righteous Cause, & stood ready to execute the Justice of his
violated Laws.

The Angels were illustrious Ministers of the Court of
Heaven, defended upon Earth, and with flaming swords expelled
our first Parents from the delightful Abode of Paradise. The
inferior Creatures imitated their Example, & became Enemies to
the human Race, whom they were originally designed to assist &
they. This Earth being designed for the habitation of Man, immedi-
ately felt the Effects of the Expulsion, & the Curse was communicated to
the

Secondly Jesus Christ came to publish the glad tidings
of peace to a guilty world. Upon this account he is depicted

2. B. G. M. to be disposed
 Enclosed to Accept. Prop^{or}. --
 This design on to G. and
 sort =
 All in the to Accept. G. Rec^{or} =
 All in the to Enclosed =
 Let us G. Impaired G. =
 1. Consider has to be to be **I**
 at En. M. to G. --
 2. When Aug. Persuasion. G.
 prep. for h. En. M. but to =
 3. G. h. on. shall send
 speed to Sec. Int. Ator. =
 4. G. G. and Neglect. new
 Malench. & Concy. =
 Account nas G. Rec^{or}
 in h. M. to Amen --

the Prophet Isaiah under the Character of the Prince of Peace.
And when he made his first Appearance in human Shape
a Multitude of the Heavenly Host were dispatched to Congre-
tulate his Nativity, Proclaim'd Glory to God in the highest
on Earth Peace. Goodwill towards Men - That He might soon
effectually accomplish his great Design -
He assum'd the Character of a Mediator between God & Man.
It became not the Majesty of the Supreme Monarch of the
Universes, to converse familiarly immediately with his rebellious
Creatures. If ever we are admitted to the favor of God, there
must be a suitable Mediator Appointed - There was none in
Heaven or Earth equal to this important Work but He had
Jesus Christ: But he perfectly Possess'd all these Qualities
which are necessary for the successful Discharge of it. The
Divine & human Nature and dwelt in his sacred Person
upon this Account
He was capable to maintain the Right of Justice, & proce-
edingly intercede for the Exercise of Mercy. He was, at once
animated with a Zeal for the Glory of God, & the tendered
Compassion to sinful Man.
If it had been only God his Majesty, and Father, would
have been only God his Majesty, and Father, would

animals with a zeal for the
 Compassion to sinful Man.
 Had he been only God his Majesty and Greatness, would
 have filled us with Terror and Astonishment. The Rigour
 of his essential Glory, would have wrought us guilty, Fear
 and Compelled us to cry out with the Psalmist, when the Law
 was delivered on Mount Sinai. Let not God speak unto us, lest we die. - Had he been only Man, he would not be
 sufficient Dignity in his Character, to appear as our Advocate
 in the Court of Heaven - nor could he expect successfully to
 plead for us so difficult a Cause. But being both God & Man
 too may, with humble Confidence, Commit our Concerns into
 his hands, for he knows our Weakness, & is acquainted with all our
 Infirmities. ^{attends to his Intercession} God ~~hears~~ ^{pleads} him with ~~pleading~~ ^{Approbation and}
 Delight, & ~~hears~~ ^{pleads} him to a Vote from Heaven his beloved Son, in
 whose Name all things are done -

But it is not enough that he appears before the Throne of God
to affirm the Character of our Mediator and Advocate. ~~we~~
further observe

II. He has purchased our Peace at the Inestimable Price of his Blood

God indeed by the unbounded Compassion of his Nature, was
inclined to show Mercy to his offending Creation, upon just &
honourable terms. But the Claims of impartial Justice must

be satisfied, & the Honour of the divine Government maintained
if ever Peace be restored between Heaven and Earth. This our

Saviour hath performed, by undergoing the Penalty of the Law
in its full Extent

by his meritorious sufferings, & full filling all Righteousness, as
the Surety & Representative of his People. He gave his life a

Redemption, that he might appease the displeasure of his heavenly
Father, & make way for the illustrious Display of Grace to

the penitent Offender. It is in this View the Prophet Isaiah

declares: He was wounded for our Transgressions, he was bruised Is: 53: 5

for our Iniquities, the chastisement of our Peace was upon him.

and we are assured that he has made Peace thro the Blood of Col: 1: 20

his Cross. In consequence of this he ^{purchase} ~~procure~~ Peace to all the

quiescent Inhabitants of this lower World without distinction --

to the Greek as well as the Jew, the bond as well as the free --

to illiterate Barbarians as well as the polished Nations of the East.

Go raise up his chosen people, who were appointed to

Conquer the Universe, & break the yoke of every Creature

to that Redeemer and baptised shall be saved. In compliance

with this extended Commission. We the Ambassadors of St.

beseech you thro him to be reconciled unto God. This Nature

really leads me to confident say

III. That when we accept of his gracious offer he actually bestows

our Peace upon us. While we continue in a State of Hostility

with God, & reject the gracious Proposals of Peace, no Room

remains to the Attoning Justice of God & the formidable Power of

the Law — for the ^{Everlasting} Majesty of Heaven, will not receive
his choicest Favour on those who rebel in a voluntary Rebellion
against him, & prophane the riches of his Grace. But
when Sinners are deeply affected with a sense of their guilt, & turn
for their Impiety and Folly, & are willing to accept of Peace
and the blood of Jesus. The fatal War is immediately terminated,
and Peace is proclaimed ^{Peace} — With God, who lays aside
the Terrors of his Wrath, & declares ^{us} to the Privileges of his family,
and Children. — With Angels, who by Obedience of our Heavenly Lord
with Heaven, become our Friends and Confederates. — With the
inferior Creatures, who all contribute to our Welfare according
to the Degree of infinite Wisdom and Goodness. — With Conscience
which being cleansed from the Guilt & Pollution of Sin, & ^{is}
continued Peace to the true believer —

Peace being thus obtained, those things which were once the
ground of Terror and Disquiet, are changed into Pleasing-
become Comforted Mercies. — Disasters, Solitary Meditations to the
mole our Spiritual Health, & Death it self an Entrance
into the Joy of Everlasting Life. —

Improvement

I How Great are our Obligations to Jesus Christ the Author &
Restorer of Peace to a rebellious World.

What can be a more terrible Threat, than that is now coming
with that mighty Power, who does according to his irresistible
Pleasures in the Armies of Heaven, & among the Inhabitants of the
Earth: No! the Mountains tremble the Rocks melt, the firmament
of Nature are moved out of their Place, at his awful Command. —
Whether can we fly from his Presence, or escape beyond the Reach
of his omnipotent Arm, if we flee up to Heaven, he is
in the magnificent Glories of his Grace, if we descend into the
Abys of Hell, behold him there in the unchangeable Throne.

his Wrath. There is no Shield can conceal us from his all-pene-
trating Eye, nor any Defence protect us from the Union of
his informed Vengeance. We must inevitably perish if he
continues our Enemies. If we approach him we die, for our
God is a consuming Fire, & to depart from him is no less a
open Death, & a trial of the utmost extremity of Misery.

Has then shall we persevere in this destructive War?
Is there any among the numerous Order of Intelligent Beings
that dare undertake our guilty Cause, or are qualified effectually
to intercede for Peace — In Vision we call — In Vision we turn our
Eyes to every Corner of the Universe for Deliverance — If we
Apply to those of our own Race, they are all engaged in the
same Unhappy Controversy, and are by ^{with exception} Names ~~Engaged~~ & ledally
to God. — If I lift up my ^{voice} ~~voice~~ to the Unspotted ^{voice} ~~voice~~ of Light
they are the ^{legal} ~~legal~~ ^{Servants} ~~Servants~~ of the most high God, & must
view us with Contempt, while we continue in a traitorous
Confederacy against their Sovereign Lord & Father.

To whom then shall we go, to whom shall we address
our Prayers, in this great Impending Vengeance. — We must look
on beyond the Order of Beings, & look all in the boundless
Compassion of the divine Nature. Blessed be God how our
Applications will not be in Vain. The Eternal Son of God
hath left the Throne of his Father, and clothed himself
with the Suppleness of Flesh and Blood, that he might successfully
undertake the Office of a Mediator, & make Reconciliation of the
God of his Corp. Without him his former Interposition
our Circumstances would have been desperate. God would
have proved an Inexorable Judge an impartial Judge to all
Mankind.

But the Blessed Jesus appeared on our favour &
mercifully condoned the Punishment, Design, by his Merits he
made Satisfaction for our offences, by his Intercession he
mercifully Pleads our Cause, & by the Influence of his Spirit
enlighten the Nations & bring you to the Father, & direct us to

accept the terms of Peace, which are proposed in the Gospel. — That
Blessings and to their leader, with Almighty & Omnipotent
Advocate and Friend — who has opened a door of Faith in which
we may approach unto God, obtain the blessing of mercy,
be admitted to the Privilege of his Father's House, the peace
and joy of his Kingdom & Eternal Happiness.

How Excellent is that Peace which dwells in the heart
not like the Peace which this World gives — Superficial, & transient
& Uncertain, but like that Divine Gift, sincere, substantial &
Perpetual. — Human Friendships may procure some external
Advantages & advance us to Riches & Honour, but the Friend-
ship of Heaven, puts us in Possession of the unspeakable blessing
of Grace, & will finally exact us to a Crown of unending Glory.
— The Man who puts on the Appearance of our friends, may
perhaps conceal a deep & inveterate Prejudice in his Breast, &
only wait a favourable Opportunity, to make us feel the Danger
in Effects of his insidious Malice & Deceit: But Christ is a
faithful Friend, who never deceives those that place their
Confidence in him. He invariably accomplishes the Promises
of his Word, & always exceeds the highest Expectations of his
Disciples. Faithful friends have sincere loves, they may be in their
Possessions, and are Unceasing Dependence, their Mercies may
Change, their Circumstances may Alter, & their Habits may
may place us out of the Reach of their Influence. But for
our heavenly Father, is an ever-living & unchangeable Friend
present at all times, & upon every Occasion. He is God and
cannot be changed. With him there is no Variation or
Change of turning. Tho' the Man may depart, & the Hills
be removed, but my Friend shall not depart from me, nor the
Love of my Peace be removed from me. The
Friendship

Jam: 1: 17.
13: 54: 10.

Friendship of his Word, under its most advantageous Circumstances
can be serviceable only during this the uncertain Period of
this Life - but the friendship of Christ accompanies us into the
World of Spirits & procures an Eternity of tranquility & Joy

How invaluable then is that Peace & Friendship which
our blessed Saviour hath purchased for us by his infinite
merits. How dear are our engagements to him for the effort
of so great and glorious a Blessing - Therefore

With what Gratitude and Joy should we accept of his kind
& precious Promises. The Wrath of Heaven is appeased, the
Demands of Justice are satisfied, The Impediments of Peace
are sent to a quiet World, & in the Name of Christ we
blessed Master, we beseech you to be reconciled to God -
What happy Tidings are these - but we never enjoy this Peace
till we are united to Christ by a living Faith & accept of his
mediation. Being justified by faith we have Peace with God

Rom 5:1.

And it is a fatal Delusion to flatter our selves, with the Prospect
of Peace, while we continue in Impenitence and Unbelief. -

What Peace said Ihu to Joram, so long as the wickedness
of my Mother Jezebel and her Witchcrafts are so many -
In the same Language must the Monarchs of Christ address
Charmfellow to those, that stubbornly Persist in the Rebellion - What
Peace, while you continue this fatal War with Heaven by
the Enmity of your Hearts, the Wickedness of your Lives. -

God hath so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten
Son, that whosoever Believeth in him, shall not perish, but have
everlasting life. To Enjoy the Benefit of a Gift, the Kingdome of our
Benefactor must be thankfully Accepted. - This Acceptance God has
graciously made the Condition of the Covenant of Grace. & wisely
appointed to be the Means, by which we Enter upon the Possession
of all the inestimable Privileges of the Gospel. - In this he has
discovered the most surprising Goodness. He hath nothing

John
Luk: 9: 16.

given us his Son, & thus him ~~proclaim~~ Peace to our guilty Race, but by
~~his~~ ^{our} ~~Redemption~~ ^{Yong} ~~Yong~~ ^{Requies} that we thankfully Accept of his Gift
& Consent to his Peaceful Design.

How great is the Difference between, the Demand of the Law
& the ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~second~~ ^{Proposals} of the Gospel, The Law demanded
Perfect and invariable Obedience to all its Commandments, &
promised the fatal Sentence against ~~any~~ ^{any} Transgressor within
Disobedience. Had ~~this~~ ^{this} ~~remained~~ ^{remained} the Terms of Life, how
miserably would the State of all the Posterity of Adam -
We must inevitably sink into the Depth of Darkness & Despair
~~Since every Man is a sinner, & the Righteousness of the Law~~
~~perfect Justice is but a filthy Rags.~~

Therefore the Scriptures represent the Law as a Minister
of Condemnation and Death, which naturally tends to inspire
us with awful Fear, & Gendeth unto Bondage. But the
Gospel delivers us from these gloomy Fears, & Practises deliverance
from the formidable Curse of the Law - It requires not Perfect
Obedience, & Unconquered Purty, as the Condition of ~~Life~~ ^{Life}
- but that we Believe ~~that~~ ^{accept} ~~God~~ ⁱⁿ ~~that~~ ^{the} ~~name~~ ^{name} of his Son
& thus from the Pleasings of Peace and Salvation
We no longer hear that discouraging Voice, do this &
thou shalt live, but the joyful Language of Grace
Grace, Believe & thou shalt be saved. ^{justified}
Malt. 11: 30 - might our Divine Master ~~after~~ ^{after} Demand that his Yoke
is Easy & his Burden light.

When he Commissioned his Disciples, and sent them
forth to preach the Gospel to the Jewels of Judea
- He gave them this ^{commission} ^{instruction}: When you come into
an house salute it, & if the House be worthy let your Peace
come upon it: but if it be not worthy let your Peace
return to you. And they of the Messias to speak the Peace
of his Ambassadors in

Malt 10: 12: 13.

^{Public in the last tidings}
all Ages. Our Instructions are to ~~Preach the Gospel of~~
Peace; if this Peace is received with humble Faith & Abandonment
Dependence, you will Experience its salutary Effects — but
if Ignored & Rejected, it will render you unworthily
more Criminal and Miserable.

O My P: after these Signal Favours, You must be
the most happy or Wretched of all Creatures, & Certainly
Triumph in the Love of God, or be the Perpetual Monument
his Inexorable Wrath. **My Gospel** which we Preach
this ~~Message~~ Embodiment of Peace which is now Proposed to
Your Acceptance will be a Law of Life unto Life
or of Death unto Death, to Every one of this Numerous
Assembly. — If you Receive it — It will Increase
your guilt, bring a Curse upon all the Rigorous
of Life, Increase the last Agony of a dying Soul,
& fill you under you inexorable at the Judgment Seat
of Jesus Christ, & fill you with Horror & Dread
the burning Cup of Wrath of Eternity, — If you
Embrace it — It will deliver you from the condemnation
of the Law, free you from the Terror
of an Accusing Conscience, defend you in the
hour of temptation — support you under the
unavoidable Calamities of this mortal State —
strengthen you upon the Bed of Death — & After Death
welcome you to the Delightful Abode of Immortal
Tranquillity Joy & Tranquillity to which I

Amen