

**12.19.10 / Isaiah 9:6 (supporting text: Romans 5:1-11)****Passage Insight**

Romans 5:1-11 explains how and why Jesus commands the title of Prince of Peace in Isaiah 9:6. Let's first focus on "how" is Prince of Peace. God is just and merciful, and each of these characteristics are seen fully in the gospel. Because He is just, He would not let our disobedience go unpunished. Jesus perfectly executes the Lord's judgment against sin by becoming our sin (2 Corinthians 5:21) and allowing Himself to be crucified and then resurrecting, conquering sin. Because He is merciful, He offered us a way to be restored to a relationship with Him without taking the punishment for our sin ourselves, and Jesus perfectly executes the Lord's mercy by offering us complete and full adoption into the family of God without having to pay the penalty for our sin. In this way, Jesus restores peace between God and mankind and perfectly displays His true and divine nature.

Regarding "why" Jesus is Prince of Peace, this is rather simple. He is love. He loves us enough to bring us back to Himself when we have gone astray. His death for our sins is a direct result of His love for us, as we see in Romans 5:6-8, where it says, "... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." We read elsewhere in Scripture that God Himself is Love. 1 John 8:4-10, for example, says this:

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Again, we see that because God is love and that this nature drives perfect action as the gospel comes to us through Jesus. In short, Jesus was sent to save us because the Lord LOVED us. Just as the Lord is perfect justice and perfect mercy, He is the very definition of love itself. 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 describes love:

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. In the gospel we see how the Lord displays His perfect love to us. He is patient in His pursuit of us as He gives us chance after chance to say yes to Him. He allows us the option to accept or reject His offer of peace. He does not hold our sin against us or keep a record of our sin when we are reconciled to Him. He is truth itself and brings glory to Himself as He redeems the lost.

We were separated from God. We were at enmity with God, the very opposite of peace. James 4:4 says, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." Despite the fact that it is our fault that we were separated from God as His enemies, Jesus took the punishment so that we could be restored to Him and become His friends instead (James 2:23), and in this way, He makes peace between us and God.

**Application Questions****Peace With God**

- 1) Through Jesus we have peace with God. How do you seek to find peace through something other than the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?
- 2) Our sin made us enemies with God, but Jesus has conquered that sin. Where do you struggle to be free of ongoing sin in your life and instead cling to your former life?

- 3) When we are at peace with God, we become His friends as we see in James 2:23 and elsewhere in Scripture. If God does this for us, we should do the same for one another. Where do you fail to extend forgiveness to those around you?
- 4) What's at the root of your withholding forgiveness?
- 5) Jesus paid the penalty for all sin, including the sins of those who have sinned against you. Wrath is the Lord's to pour out, not yours, and this gives you incredible freedom to forgive others as the Lord has forgiven you. Pray that you will do this with and for one another.

**God Is Merciful and Just**

- 1) God's is love. Where do you struggle to see this truth?
- 2) What characteristic do you apply to Him instead?
- 3) God punishes our sins because He is just, and He allowed Jesus to take that punishment and to give us life instead because He is merciful. How does this change your perspective on God as love?
- 4) We are only capable of truly loving one another if we love as Christ loves us. What does this look like in your group?

**Sources**

- Prayer
- Tyler Jones