**John 14:27 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**Isaiah 9:6** **For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

 This morning, we lit the candle of peace and also the candle of love. Next week, we’ll talk of love, but this week the focus is peace. Our God is a God of Peace. Jesus is known as the Prince of Peace! As we wait expectantly this morning, having risen and looked through the curtains thinking that today just might be the day that He will split the sky and come to take us home, we know that today may not be the day, but the day has been promised and, what God promises, Christ will deliver. We can be at Peace in His promise.

 There is a need in this world for Peace right now. We are bombarded with the negative every single day, from the moment we wake until the moment we fall asleep. Seems anywhere we look the world seeks to ruin our Peace in Jesus. That’s Satan’s plan – distract and destroy, distract and destroy – if he can distract us from Jesus, he can destroy (if even for a day) our witness.

Look at the first part of verse 27 - **Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.** Peace is a gift we must choose to receive. As Joshua says in Joshua 24:15, choose you this day whom ye shall serve. John 14:27 doesn’t say – Peace I force upon you… it says Peace I leave with you. Then He says – My peace I give to you. When someone gives us something, in order to take possession of it, we must choose to receive it. We must choose every day what we will receive. Will we receive the peace of Jesus Christ or will we follow the world? Where will we cast our eyes?

Let’s continue **- not as the world gives do I give to you.** Peace will never come to us in a worldly way. When I think of worldly peace, I think of harmony and love, people getting along, no one hurting anyone else. If I were standing on the golden streets of Glory, this is what I’d see, but I’m standing in this broken world of pain. The world can’t give us peace, so Jesus gives us His peace. His peace is an inner peace – His peace lays on us even when things are chaotic, politics are ugly, money is short, relationships are in disarray… but we must choose to receive that peace. Philippians 4:7 says - And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. The world has no ability to give us that kind of peace. Jesus is telling us – Don’t look for it there! Seek Me and I will give it and you will receive it, but you must seek Me first! Peace is not an attack dog that springs from under the porch and clamps down on us, refusing to let go! Faith, Hope, Joy… none of these will attack us and force us to receive them. Yet, many Christians treat these as though they have no part in the choice to experience Joy, experience Hope, experience Faith, and experience Peace.

For any gift to be of use, we must put it to use. You can give me a vacuum cleaner, but until I turn it on, my floors will not get any cleaner. I received a can opener a couple of weeks ago and that thing has not opened one can! Well Richard, did you plug it in? Nope, haven’t even taken it out of the box… Peace is a gift that we must choose to use. John 14 starts with these words: **Let not your heart be troubled.** That should look very familiar because Jesus ends verse 27 just that same way - **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.** We sing a song that says: Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace. When we immerse ourselves in the promises of Jesus, trouble grows strangely dim. John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. Let not your heart be troubled. Receive My gift of Peace. Stop looking at the world! You won’t find peace there… look instead to Me.

This Christmas, let not your heart be troubled. But my child is sick. Let not your heart be troubled. But my money is gone. Let not your heart be troubled. But the nation is in disarray. Let not your heart be troubled. But my body is failing me and I feel alone. Let not your heart be troubled. Jesus is asking – will you receive My gift this Christmas, the one that cost Me My very life? If you haven’t received Him, come this morning! Does it mean no more troubles? No. It means that you will have peace even in your troubles when you choose to receive that peace.

Do we truly have our eyes upon Jesus this morning? Are we looking into His wonderful Face? Don’t be alarmed as the world grows strangely dim – your eyes are adjusting to the Light of His wonderful Grace.