

# JESUS ... THE PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

## *Part 14 Ephesians Chapter Two*

Ephesians 2:17 **SLIDE**

*And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.*

**THERE IS A MESSAGE THAT NEEDS TO BE PREACHED ...**

**IT IS A MESSAGE THAT HAS THE ANSWER TO EVERY PERSON'S DEEPEST NEED ...**

**IT IS A MESSAGE THAT IS ABLE TO BRING A PERSON OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE LIGHT ... OUT OF SORROW INTO JOY ... OUT OF BONDAGE INTO FREEDOM ... OUT OF HOPLESSNESS INTO HOPE ... OUT OF LONELINESS INTO FAMILY ... FROM HOSTILITY TO PEACE ... FROM FEAR TO REST ...**

**IT IS A MESSAGE REGARDING ETERNAL SALVATION ... AVAILABLE FOR ALL PEOPLE – NEAR AND FAR ...**

**NB: This message doesn't tell us we need to repent of sin in order for God to grant us forgiveness ... as people preach ...**

It tells us ...

**ALL OUR SINS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FORGIVEN**

**WHEN GOD JUDGED JESUS ON THE CROSS IN OUR PLACE AND HE BECAME OUR SUBSTITUTE (Propitiation - 1 John 2:2)**

**The message is, 'TURN YOUR HEART TO GOD AND COME "INTO" HIS FORGIVENESS ALREADY PURCHASED FOR YOU'.**

*(See [The True Meaning of Luke 24:47](#) - 'repentance and remission of sins should be preached' in [Supplementary Notes](#))*

**THIS MESSAGE IS 'THE GOSPEL OF PEACE' – THE MESSAGE of 'PEACE' that Jesus preaches in our text.**

It tells us ... **because of Jesus death, God is no longer angry with us ... and now we can have 'peace with God'.**

It is a dynamic, life-changing message ...

**However, it does nobody any good UNLESS THEY HEAR IT.**

**In order for it to benefit anyone ... PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR IT ...**

## IT NEEDS TO BE PREACHED

AS Romans 10:14 **SLIDE**

*... How shall they believe in Him of whom **they have not heard** and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

So we read in our text - JESUS HIMSELF TAKES ON THIS NEW MINISTRY & **BECOMES THE PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL.**

Ephesians 2:17 **SLIDE**

*And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.*

**SLIDE** JESUS NOT ONLY PAID ALL OUR DEBT TO GOD WHEN HE DIED ... HE NOT ONLY **CONQUERED ALL SATANIC DARKNESS** ON THE CROSS AND THEN ROSE VICTORIOUSLY OVER IT ALL ... AFTER ALL THIS ... **JESUS TOOK UP THE APPOINTMENT AS THE PREACHER OF ALL THIS GOOD NEWS** ...

THIS BECAME JESUS NEW ROLE.

Jesus knew, to provide this magnificent salvation was not enough. **HE KNEW HE NEEDED NOW TO PROCLAIM IT ... TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF 'PEACE WITH GOD' ... BECAUSE PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR WHAT IS NOW THEIRS IN CHRIST.**

*Whilst recovering from cancer, I wrote and recorded many new songs expressing what I went through and what the Lord was teaching me.*

*After I finished the recording (which cost thousands of dollars) the producer said to me, 'So Chris, what are you going to do now to get these songs out to people?*

*He went on to say, '**You need to take them on the road and perform them!**'*

*I said, 'But I'm not a really good singer.'*

*He said, 'Chris you're an artist who sings his art.'*

*I liked that ... and so I put a group together and **we went on the road and performed the songs** and sold CDs ... and many people were blessed.*

*However, if I'd only produced the CD and never taken it out to the people ... **NOBODY WOULD HAVE HEARD AND NOBODY WOULD HAVE BENEFITTED** ... and that treasure would have been lost.*

**SO IT IS HERE ... GOD DOES NOT WANT THIS GOOD NEWS TO BE HEAVEN'S BEST KEPT SECRET.**

**AFTER RISING FROM THE DEAD, JESUS HIMSELF STEPPED INTO HIS NEW ROLE AS THE ETERNAL PREACHER OF GOOD NEWS.**

**JESUS PROVIDED SALVATION & NOW PROCLAIMS SALVATION.**

**JESUS MINISTRY CONTINUES ... AS THE HEAD OF GLOBAL & TIMELESS EVANGELISM ...**

This was the beginning of the Great Evangelistic Movement which will continue until Jesus Christ comes again.

### **SO HOW DOES JESUS DO THIS PREACHING?**

**JESUS' WAY OF PREACHING NOW IS THROUGH HIS PEOPLE ...**

Those who will allow Him to speak through them ...

Those who will dedicate their lives to be His mouthpiece ... His channel.

This is what He commissioned the disciples to do before He left the earth ...

Mark 16:15 & 19-20 **SLIDE**

... He said to them, "Go into all the world and *preach the gospel* to every creature.

<sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And *they went out and preached* everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

### **THIS IS THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Matthew 28:20 NLT

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

**SLIDE**

**JESUS PERSONALLY COMMISSIONS PEOPLE TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS**

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NIV **SLIDE**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation:** <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>**We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

After providing us with this great salvation, Jesus didn't just go back to heaven, sit on the throne with His feet up, and say ... 'There ya go guys! I've done it all. It's now all up to you.'

**JESUS CONTINUES WITH HIS SPIRITUAL MINISTRY IN & THROUGH HIS PEOPLE – THE CHURCH.**

**GOD HAS CALLED SOME OF YOU TO BE PREACHERS OF HIS GOOD NEWS BUT YOU ARE RUNNING FROM IT.**

*"O preach my gospel," saith the Lord, "Bid the whole earth my grace receive! He shall be saved that trusts my word, He shall be damned that won't believe.*

*"Hymn 128" by Isaac Watts*

**SLIDE**

**JESUS PERSONALLY EMPOWERS PEOPLE TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS**

**JESUS IS THE TRUE PREACHER BEHIND EVERY SINCERE PREACHER OF HIS GOOD NEWS**

2 Corinthians 13:3-5 BSB **SLIDE**

Since you are demanding proof that **Christ is speaking through me.** He is not weak in dealing with you, but **is powerful among you.** <sup>4</sup> ... He lives by God's power. And though we are weak in Him, yet by God's power **we will live with Him to serve you.** <sup>5</sup> ... **Can't you see for yourselves that Jesus Christ is [among] you ... ?**

**JESUS CHRIST IS NOW SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING THROUGH HIS PEOPLE**

**PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT PAUL IS SAYING ABOUT HIMSELF SPEAKING TO THE EPHESIANS.** In the sense of having sent his preachers and given them his Spirit could Jesus be said to have preached to the Ephesians. (Pulpit Commentary)

**Acts 13:38** BSB

*Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that **through Jesus** the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.*

**1 Corinthians 5:4** BSB

*When you are assembled in the name of our Lord Jesus and I am with you in spirit, **along with the power of the Lord Jesus ...***

## TO WHOM IS THIS MESSAGE PREACHED?

**Ephesians 2:17** SLIDE

*And He came and preached peace **to you who were afar off and to those who were near.***

### LET'S LOOK FIRST AT THOSE WHO ARE 'NEAR'

*This is not necessarily speaking about The Jews and The Temple structure as is mentioned in Ephesians 2:15*

*(See our message on Facebook, [facebook.com/newcreationchurchqld](https://www.facebook.com/newcreationchurchqld) 'One New Man in Christ' 26.9.21)*

**This is those who are near in their hearts ...**

### **WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE & WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?**

**SLIDE** *The Ethiopian Eunuch – A MAN WHO WAS 'NEAR'*

Acts 8:26-40 ESV

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And **there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch**, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. **He had come to Jerusalem to worship** <sup>28</sup> and was returning, seated in his chariot, and **he was reading the prophet Isaiah.**

**SLIDE** <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> And he said, "**How can I, unless someone guides me?**" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

*"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.*

<sup>33</sup> *In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."*

<sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, "**About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?**" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth,

**and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.** <sup>36</sup> And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, <sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through, he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**NB: THIS MAN WAS SO SINCERE ... HE SOUGHT THE TRUTH ... HE WORSHIPED GOD WHOM HE DID NOT KNOW YET ... HE READ THE WORD OF GOD.**

**HE WAS NEAR BUT NOT THERE**

**THERE ARE MANY LIKE THAT .... SOME ALREADY SINGING PRAISE TO GOD IN CHURCH - **THEY ARE NEAR BUT NOT THERE****  
*Catholics – Anglicans – who have never heard Jesus' Message ...*

***IF THIS APPLIES TO YOU ... TURN YOUR LIFE OVER TO GOD AND YOU WILL RECEIVE HIS TOTAL FORGIVENESS – YOU WILL ENTER INTO HIS FORGIVENESS ...***

**The Ethiopian Eunch wasn't a Jew ... but He was so near ... He had the Word in his hands. He just needed a 'Preacher' ... And Philip shared 'The Gospel' with him.**

**NOT ALL PREACHERS PREACH THE MESSAGE JESUS PREACHES.  
NOT ALL PREACHERS ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE A MOUTHPIECE FOR JESUS ...**

### **TO THEM WHO ARE AFAR OFF**

**HOW FAR OFF CAN YOU BE?**

**In Paul's day many nations were steeped in religious superstition ... many in witchcraft and idolatry ... e.g. The Temple of Diana ... Today there are dark places of spiritual evil ... e.g. The Gay Mardis Gras ...**

****BUT IT IS THE SAME MESSAGE TO THEM ALSO – TURN TOWARD GOD. HE HAS ALREADY TAKEN YOUR SINS AWAY.****

**NB: THERE IS NO IN-BETWEEN ...**

**THE GOSPEL OF PEACE IS NOT PREACHED TO THOSE WHO ARE IN-BETWEEN ... ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE 'NEAR & FAR'**

**IN-BETWEEN PEOPLE ARE ...**

**People who don't care ... people who are nonchalant ... blasé ... indifferent ... insouciant (showing a casual lack of concern) ... insipid ... tasteless ... inane ... banal ...**

NB: We're not talking about quiet, shy, reserved people but a person's attitude to God ...

Jesus said, 'To the Poor the Gospel is preached' (Luke 7:22)  
Because the poor know their need and are seeking answers ...

These are those near and also those who are sincerely seeking the truth ...

**Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'It's the sick that need a physician'**  
(Matthew 9:12) ...

**Because they didn't know how sick they were ...**

**THEY WERE NEITHER NEAR NOR FAR**

**A PERSON TOTALLY AGAINST GOD OR FIGHTING GOD**

**ACTUALLY THINKS ABOUT GOD ...**

**WHEREAS A PERSON WHO DOESN'T CARE HAS NO THOUGHT OF GOD AT ALL ...**

**Jesus said, 'I would have you hot or cold for if you are lukewarm I will spew you out of my mouth.' –**

Revelation 3:15-16

*I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will [I am about to] vomit you out of My mouth.*

**SLIDE** Some people in churches are lukewarm ...

***Someone asks, 'What's the problem with churches today pastor? Is it ignorance or apathy?'***

***Pastor answers, 'I don't know & I don't care'.***

**REMEMBER JESUS SAID THIS TO CHURCH PEOPLE ... TO THE CHURCH OF LAODICEA ...**

**BEING INDIFFERENT IS A MORE-SCARY PLACE THAN TO BE FAR AWAY.**

## **SOCIETY'S SLOW-COOKED LETHARGY**

**TODAY PEOPLE PREACH A SOCIETY OF 'TOLERANCE' - AN  
INSIPID ACCEPTANCE WITHOUT EXTREMES.**

**THE DEVIL IS BRINGING SOCIETY INTO A LETHARGIC PLACE OF  
LIFELESS APATHY ... SHALLOW SMILES AND NAMBY-PAMBY  
PLATITUDES ...**

**THEY ARE PEOPLE OF NO CONVICTION WHO HAVE BEEN LULLED  
INTO A FALSE SENSE OF COMPLACENCY**

**BEWARE FRIENDS ... IT IS A SCARY PLACE TO BE IN AND MOST  
EVIL ... This place of 'Nicey Nicey' ... without God ...**

**CHRISTIANS ...  
YOU HAVE BEEN RECONCILED BY GOD ...  
NOW BE RECONCILED TO GOD**

### **SLIDE GENERAL BOOTH & THE SALVATION ARMY** *Read Chapter One of 'General Next to God'*

*The story is told of the big man who sang the stanza of a hymn  
outside a pub in one of the lowest places in England in General  
Booth's day.*

*He stood there and passionately invited people to come to God,  
until rotten food was dripping from his face ...*

**A preacher of peace ...**

**Friend, will you take up the commission?  
Will you say 'Yes' to what God is calling you to?**

## **SUPPLEMENTARY**

### **THE REMISSION OF SIN**

**Luke 24:47 is a badly quoted and greatly misunderstood verse.**



**Luke 24:47**

***And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.***

The traditional and erroneous thought is ... people must repent from their sin so they can be forgiven.

This means that the forgiveness of God is based upon people turning away from sin.

***NB: This does NOT say, 'repentance from sin should be preached' as is often proclaimed.***

**Many versions read 'Repentance FOR the remission of sins'.  
The Greek reads 'Repentance INTO (eis) the remission of sins.'**

God already forgave all our sin when Jesus died upon The Cross ... before you were even born ... before you had committed any sin ... and before you had time to turn away from sin.

1 John 2:2 NIV

*He is the **aton**ing sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Hebrews 1:3

*After He [Jesus] **had provided purification for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

**The word Repentance here is 'metanoia' meaning to have a change of heart or mind or to turn your heart and mind toward God and receive His forgiveness ... already purchased ...**

SO TO TURN YOUR THINKING TOWARD GOD – OPEN YOUR HEART TO GOD ...

THEN COME 'INTO' [- EIS] THE REMISSION OF SINS ALREADY PROVIDED.

**THE TRUE MESSAGE OF LUKE 24:47 IS – GOD HAS ALREADY FORGIVEN YOU ALL SIN ...**

**SO TURN YOUR HEART TO HIM AND COME 'INTO' HIS FORGIVENESS**

**Look at the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:3-11)**

**Jesus didn't say, 'Go and sin no more and then your sins will be forgiven'.**

**He said, 'I do not condemn you ... Now go and sin no more.' (See John 8:11)**

***See also Colossians 1:19-22 – reconciled to God***