



RESURRECTION CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

300 Eagles Nest Farm Road, Hawk Point, Missouri 63349 • Ph: 636-597-3755 • FAX: 636-597-3743

Paul and Gretel Haglin

EVANGELIZING THE HEART OF THE BELIEVER

Letters of Faith

December 2009

**“...this will be a sign for you:
you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger.’
And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.’”**

(Luke 2:12-14)

Dearly Beloved,

What kind of a sign was that? A baby is born and wrapped in swaddling cloths (according to their custom) and is lying in a manger is a sign? Bethlehem was jammed with people returning to their hometown to register for the Emperor’s census. There could have been many newborns lying in a mangers or an ox cart all over town.

No, we don’t think a birth announcement was the sign from heaven that shattered the tranquility of that silent night...even though it did come from an angel.

We think the sign that galvanized those faithful shepherds to leave their flocks and run into Bethlehem looking for a certain baby in a certain manger, was the explosive proclamation by Heaven’s suddenly appearing majestic angelic choir praising Almighty God and proclaiming: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”**

Glory to our one true Almighty God! Amen!

But peace here on this strife-savaged earth? Peace while the oppressive Roman army keeps us all in terror? Peace among men with whom God is pleased, not just those ruling oppressors in their hoity-toity palaces? Now that is a sign from heaven we long to tap into.

So the shepherds ran to locate Him who they would eventually learn to know as the Prince of Peace, and to be the first among all mankind to witness and worship the greatest gift of God to man...the incarnate Son of God.

Peace! The whole world yearns to experience peace, yet it is still to this day convulsed with threats, anger, hate, wars, destruction, envies, terrorism, murders, and strife.

Peace! But the definition of peace we are longing for depends upon with whom we speak! The Communists in Russia claimed they wanted peace. In their writings they consistently described “peace” ...the state in which there would be no people or nations not living “peaceably” under their communism’s rule. The Muslims declare today that they desire “peace,” but that it can only come when the whole world is Muslim, and to that end, they will terrorize, maim, and kill to bring it to pass!

And the Somalian Pirates thumb their noses at the world’s navies and the UN “Peacekeepers” because they know they won’t touch them...that wouldn’t be PC! Isn’t it too bad that PC stands for Politically Correct instead of Peace Centered?

And so it continues around the world. All of the worldly “peacemakers” want their agenda followed without question or protest...their definition of peace...so they fight one another and oppress the innocent in the name of peace!

God chose to send His Son into a seething world of evil, to a place writhing under the yoke of Roman rule and the heavy burden of religious laws and false gods by the dozens. Rebellion and revenge were twin bubbling volcanoes ready to erupt. Isaiah writes of the glimpse he caught of this awesome gift to mankind Who was to come down from heaven into our midst. He waxed eloquently about Him in

Isaiah 9:6-7: **“...And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace...”** No wonder the prophets and God’s people longed to see Him!

The Lord Jesus said to those who chose to follow Him: **“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, nor let it be fearful.”** (John 14:27) The peace that Jesus offered His disciples was not intended to shield them from the coming tumultuous events, the false accusations, or the unjust persecutions, but to sustain and strengthen them in and through those circumstances. They had witnessed Jesus stand in their wildly rocking half-sunk fishing boat calmly facing a howling gale and shouting above its roar, **“Peace, be still!”** (Mark 4:39 KJV) and remembered with awe seeing the furies immediately stop in their tracks, and the threatening waves quickly subside to mere ripples that lapped meekly against the sides of the boat.

His apostles experienced the same freedom in their lives when Jesus spoke “Peace!” to their souls. The storms of fear and anger battering their hearts and minds were extinguished immediately by the power of His word! He gave them They subsequently strode calmly through demonic storms of raging hatred and opposition, to the amazement of all who watched them. The peace that remained in which His disciples worked, ministered, and lived was nourished because of their close relationship with Him. **“For He Himself is our peace...”** (Eph. 2:14) When we live with, or are closely associated with someone who walks in God’s peace within themselves, it affects our life and leads us into that same peace.

His followers didn’t understand Him when He told them, **“I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”** (John 16:33 NIV) But they knew that only He had the **“words of eternal life”** (John 6:68) and that gave them **“the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension (which would) guard (their) hearts and (their) minds in Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 4:7)

He certainly never ever implied that His disciples would be exempt from the world’s problems, but rather, He promised that in Him they could always find the peace that they needed to make the right decisions, to have the courage to overcome the forces of evil that try so hard to destroy the truth and their (our) faith, and even to face a martyr’s death with fearless confidence and joy. No wonder the Apostle Paul in writing to the young churches constantly proclaimed: **“Grace and peace to you from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

In Jesus, we can face those storms that rise up out of nowhere and threaten our lives: the storms of doubt and unbelief, of lies and beguilement, of temptation and despair. At His word they all must cease their battering of our minds and emotions! Backed by the quiet calm of Jesus’ authority, we can overcome the tumults because **“...God has called us to peace.”** (1 Cor. 7:15)

Peace is where we belong! Let us therefore **“...be diligent to be found by Him in peace...”** (2 Pet. 3:14) that we may be used to minister His peace: to quiet the disquieted; to bring His tranquility to the tormented; to harness reckless anger; and to speak peace to the frightened in His Name. **“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”** (Matt. 5:9)

This is the season of taking special note of the miracle of the incarnation of God in Jesus, His Son, the birth of the Prince of Peace. Let us corporately celebrate this divine intervention on our behalf with a prayer for the hastening of the time for the establishing of God’s Peace (will) on earth as it is in Heaven, that we might soon see the God of Peace sitting on the throne in His Shekinah glory, and the whole world bathed in His peace and light!

“Now (may) the God of peace... equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in (you) that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:20-21)

We proclaim Peace and Grace be multiplied to you and yours this Christmas, in Jesus’ Name! And remember in these dark and threatening hours, God’s Word assures us that: **“There will be no end to the increase of His government or of [His] peace...”**

Hugs,

