

## ON THE PATH TO PEACE

### THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

- A. Different approaches people take
  - 1. External influences - forgetting / escaping / ignoring
  - 2. Meditation and mindfulness - recognize the importance of thought control
  - 3. Chasing the illusion - of reaching a place where there are no problems
- B. God's plan for His people is peace (*Isaiah 32:17-19 NKJV*)
  - 1. He wants His people to be calm, assured, peaceful and secure
  - 2. A result of being in right-standing with God
    - a. Because of what Jesus has done and our response
  - 3. We can have peace in our hearts regardless of what is going on around us

### A KINGDOM'S PATH TO PEACE (*2 Chronicles 14:2-7 NKJV*)

- A. King Asa lived by a higher standard
  - 1. He did what was good / right in God's sight
    - a. This always turns out well
- B. He implemented three important things in his kingdom
  - 1. Got rid of all the false gods and idols
  - 2. Commanded Judah to seek God
    - a. Look to Him with honor and respect
    - b. Acknowledge Him as the Creator and above all things
  - 3. Instructed the people to obey God's ways and commandments
- C. God blessed the nation of Judah with peace
  - 1. No wars and turmoil - so they could focus on building and becoming stronger
  - 2. God made them successful

### ON THE PATH TO PEACE

- A. Begin to live like God is real
  - 1. Living with an awareness of Him
    - a. He is there, He does see and know
  - 2. Seeking God - to live by His higher standards
    - a. Living with respect and honor for Him
- B. Put away what does not belong in our lives (*Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV*)
  - 1. We are not who we used to be - the old man
  - 2. We have been made righteous in Christ
    - a. So we live in line with who we are
- C. Put into practice what you know to do - putting on the new man
  - 1. Wherever you are start there
    - a. Obey His word and His Holy Spirit
- D. God's peace will grow in your life (*Philippians 4:9 NKJV*)
  - 1. With the God of peace, you can have His peace in your heart
    - a. His peace in your life will impact your "kingdom"

***Isaiah 32:17-19 NKJV***

17 The work of righteousness will be peace,  
And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.  
18 My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation,  
In secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places,  
19 Though hail comes down on the forest,  
And the city is brought low in humiliation.

***2 Chronicles 14:2-7 NKJV***

2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God, 3 for he removed the altars of the foreign gods and the high places, and broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images. 4 He commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers, and to observe the law and the commandment. 5 He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah, and the kingdom was quiet under him. 6 And he built fortified cities in Judah, for the land had rest; he had no war in those years, because the Lord had given him rest. 7 Therefore he said to Judah, "Let us build these cities and make walls around them, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us, because we have sought the Lord our God; we have sought Him, and He has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered.

***Ephesians 4:22-24 NKJV***

22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

***Philippians 4:9 NKJV***

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.