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*“The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2)*

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## FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT: PEACE

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23)*

The first three fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace—are very beautiful, and very much loved. How many times have you seen these three words on plaques in homes, or on coffee mugs, or embroidered on shirts?

Love, as the first on the list, is essential to the rest. We need great love for God and all the people around us. Joy is a feeling that everyone feels at times, but Christian joy does not

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THE HARVESTER

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leave us even in the middle of dark seasons of life. Peace, like joy, is a comfort to us at all times because of the relationship we have with our Shepherd.

Peace is unique because we understand it best as the absence of something else—the absence of conflict, the absence of anxiety, the absence of fear. Peace gives us the opportunity to build unity with other people.

Spiritually, there are three fronts in which we can have peace: peace with God, peace within ourselves, and peace with others.

Peace with God — Romans 5:1-11 (this peace is ours even in stressful times!):

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*

Peace with others — Ephesians 2:11-22 (this passage is about finding peace with others through Jesus Christ):

*Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

Peace within ourselves — Philippians 4:6-9 (there may not be a better recipe for inner peace than the words in these verses!):

*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be*

*any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

It's one thing to know what peace is, another thing to have peace, and quite another to preserve it.

How can we keep peace?

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.* (Isaiah 26:3)

*And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.* (James 3:18)

Peace is planted, it is cultivated, it is fertilized, and it is weeded, all so that it can be harvested. We need to be willing to compromise to make peace, but we can't compromise the truth of God's word.

Just before James gives us these beautiful words about sowing peace, he says this:

*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.* (James 3:17)

Yes, peace is worthwhile. It is a noble target. It is also pure and without hypocrisy. When God's truth is compromised in the name of peace, then what is found is not the "wisdom from above." This type of peace may be pleasant in the present, but it will not stand in the test of time or judgment.

In closing, here are three things to consider prayerfully:

1. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came preaching peace. We should, too.
2. "*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ...*" (Col. 3:15)

3. “Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means...” (2 Thess. 3:16)

CHAD PRINCE  
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## SUBJECT TO THE GOVERNMENT

As a Christian, you are a member of the Kingdom of God. There are righteous rules and commands that you follow. The Kingdom is ruled by our Holy God and His Son, Jesus Christ. They are righteous, loving, merciful and all wise and they rule with justice. Since you live in the world, you also are under an earthly, carnal government. There may be corruption, injustices, and tolerance of evil practices.

As a Christian, how are you to deal with your earthly government?

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour. (Romans 13:1-7)*

This passage of scripture is very important for understanding the relationship you should have with earthly governments. First, understand that the earthly governments are set up by God and that if you go against these governments, you are going against God. If you violate the laws or do evil, you can expect to receive consequences from the government which is a servant of God. If you do good, you most likely will not have anything to fear from the government; they are there to help you and protect you from others who do evil. It is appropriate for you to pay taxes and customs; you should have appropriate respect and honor for the government.

It shouldn't surprise you that leading individuals in the government are corrupt. While some may be righteous, most are not.

*To the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. (Daniel 4:17b)*

This implies that God uses corrupt and ungodly individuals as rulers in earthly governments. Even though there may be corruption in the government, you still have a responsibility to obey and support your government and honor the rulers.

Your job is to submit to the ordinances and laws of your government.

*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the*

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*punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. (1 Peter 2:13-17)*

As a Christian, you should not be known as a lawbreaker or rebel against the government. God wants you to be submissive to the government so you can silence people who look for ways to condemn and criticize the followers of Jesus.

Of course there may come a time when the government demands that you do something contrary to the righteousness of God. The apostles ran into that problem. “*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men*” (Acts 5:29). When you have to make a choice between obeying the government or obeying God, your choice must be to obey God.

It is appropriate to pray for your government.

*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)*

The important thing to pray about is that the government will rule in such a way that you can live your godly life in quietness and peace.

I encourage you to submit to your government, obey its laws, honor the rulers, and pray for those who are in authority.

ED ANDERSON  
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

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<b>DATES</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>
July 14 - 17	Mount Zion Crab Orchard, KY	Hunter Bulger (Prattville, AL)
July 17 - 24	Oak Grove Woodland, AL	Bill Prince, Jr. (Oxford, AL)
July 24 - 29	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Joe Hill (Hager Hill, KY)
July 29 - 31	Verona Verona, KY	J.D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)

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### SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. In whose image was man created?
  2. What golden animal did the Israelites make as an idol?
  3. Which musical instrument did David play for Saul?
  4. What does the name Emmanuel mean?
  5. In what was Jesus wrapped before he was buried?
- ...and remember last month's questions?
1. On which day of creation did God create light? **FIRST**  
(Genesis 1:3-5)
  2. Who was King Ahab's wife? **JEZEBEL** (1 Kings 16:30-31)
  3. Under whose reign was Daniel thrown into the lions' den?  
**DARIUS** (Daniel 6:9-12)
  4. What was the title that Pilate wrote on Jesus' cross?  
**JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS** (John 19:19)
  5. According to Jude, who disputed with the devil about the body of Moses? **MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL** (Jude 1:9)