

**Peace on Earth? 2**

**Which of these goals will you intentionally focus on in the New Year?**

* **Get in better shape**
* **Spend less/save more**
* **Read the Bible more consistently**
* **Quit a bad habit**
* **Learn a new skill**

*Isa 26:1-4  In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts.  (2)  Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith.  (3)  You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.  (4)  Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.*

**What can we learn about peace in this text?**

**What, do you suppose, he means by perfect peace?**

**What two qualifiers does he suggest in verse 3?**

*Psa 4:8  In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

**What can we learn about peace in text?**

**Who is responsible for his peace?**

*Psa 119:164-169  Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.  (165)  Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.  (166)  I wait for your salvation, LORD, and I follow your commands.  (167)  I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly.  (168)  I obey your precepts and your statutes, for all my ways are known to you.  (169)  May my cry come before you, LORD; give me understanding according to your word.*

**What can we learn about peace in text?**

**What, does the author suggest, will bring peace?**

*Rom 5:1-5  Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  (2)  through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.  (3)  Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;  (4)  perseverance, character; and character, hope.  (5)  And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

**What can we learn about peace in text?**

**What do you make of Paul suggesting that peace and suffering can happen simultaneously?**

*Rom 8:5-6  Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.  (6)  The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*

**What can we learn about peace in text?**

**So we should…. How?**

*Eph 2:13-16  But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.  (14)  For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,  (15)  by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,  (16)  and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

**What can we learn about peace in this text?**

**Take some time to breakdown this text, what is Paul trying to tell us?**

*Joh 16:32-33  "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.  (33)  "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."*

**What can we learn about peace in this text?**