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**I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day:**  **Finding Real Peace**

Kerrick Thomas, Lead Pastor  
December 18, 2022

*“Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven –*

*praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth*

*to those with whom God is pleased.’”* - Luke 2:13-14

**I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day**

I heard the bells on Christmas day   
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace of earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

(Poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day, December 25, 1863)

**How to Experience Real Peace in My Life This Christmas**

* **To Experience Peace with Myself, Trust Jesus to Remind me of His  
    
  Unconditional Love.**

*“Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* - Romans 8:39

*“If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
 and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”* - 1 John 1:9

* **To Experience the Peace of God, Trust Jesus with the Circumstances of My  
    
  Life.**

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need,  
 and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace,   
which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”* - Philippians 4:6-7

(Jesus) *“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me.*

*Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.*

*But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”*  - John 16:33

* **To Experience Peace with Others, Trust Jesus to Help Me Relate to Others  
    
  with Grace.**

*“Don’t worry “Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,   
just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”*  - Ephesians 4:32

*“Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”* - Romans 12:18

* **To Experience Peace with God, Trust Jesus for My Salvation.**

*“I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.*

*The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem,*

*the city of David!”* - Luke 2:10-11

**Memory Verse:**

*“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.”* - Romans 5:1

Join us next weekend for our special Online Journey Christmas Service @ www.JourneyNYC.TV. Services ONLINE ONLY on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24 at 3pm, 5pm, 7pm or 9pm or on Christmas Day at 9am, 11am, 1pm and more.  No In-Person services Christmas weekend.

In-Person services resume Sunday, January 1 @ 11am at the AMC Empire 25 Theater in Times Square for our first service of 2023 - *Will You Follow Jesus More Closely in 2023?*

* *If you made a first-time decision to follow Jesus today, email follower@journeynyc.com to receive a free copy of “The Next Step for Your Journey” book, plus other helpful materials.*
* *If you are a first-time guest today, email book@journeynyc.com to receive a free copy of the book, “Unshakable: Standing Strong When Things Go Wrong” (a $19.95 value).*

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| **My Next Step Today is to:**   * Memorize Romans 5:1. * Become a follower of Jesus by trusting Him with my salvation. * Pray and trust Jesus with all of the circumstances of my life.    + RSVP for the special Walk Thru the Bible New Testament Seminar (identical seminars – pick only one):  ❍ Sat, Jan 28 from 9:30am – 12:30pm ❍ Sun, Jan 29 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm |

All verses are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

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