



Chapter 3: Peace Through the Preaching Words (Faith) of the Cross.

"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 contain ed 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." (Ephesians 2:14-18 KJV)

Note from the outline above that not only does this ONE COMMENTARY let Paul, or God through Paul, speaks but let's them speak in the words and in the outline of Ephesians itself, short departures from the main flow are made only to demonstrate the contemporary applicability or to illustrate the consistency of the whole book of Ephesians and the Word of God, remembering the place of Ephesians in the total New Testament Canon and the sixty-six books of the Word of God and that the study is functional, not academic, to know God through Christ and peace. Yet we do not preach and teach in a vacuum, but to the lost world the way they are now!

3-1: Shirley, John, and MTD as typical of the majority of unbelievers.

Hopefully in this chapter, we can begin to progress beyond MTD, the god of entropy and physics that John Quinn wrote of, and even the spirit guides and energy of Shirley McMichael, the famous wife of the famous John McMichael killed 31 years ago in Northern Ireland supposedly at the doings of the IRA.

1. First Shirley in a Facebook post with which as a FB friend permission was given to quote:

"I believe that we have spirit guides and that these guides can be with you throughout your life ormaybe.... just be with us for a particular event when you most need help. We will all interpret this energy according to our own beliefswhether; we feel it comes from a Guardian Angel or from our loved ones who have passed (animal and human). However, I know that this comforting energy comes from a divine source and when needed it is there for us. We may not even be aware that they have intervoened on a particular occasion but maybe feel a particular love and closeness to them on that day."

2. A friend and avowed sceptic John Quinn. In a continuing dialog with an old Navy buddy, John Quinn, of Argentia Newfoundland, presently of the state of Washington about to move to Florida, All Scripture stated:
 - a. On Dec 17, 2018, at 11:41 AM, All Scripture <allscripture2013@gmail.com> wrote: Thanks for your patience John. (1) Unless you were in NATTC Millington on AT

training, it had to be in Norfolk on the APS-20 or ECM class. (2) sorry John, equal only in the American Democratic faith as citizens, but it is a different story from heaven's perspective as all the world is divided into children of light, by the grace of God, and the children of this world that have failed to believe IN CHRIST and be regenerated.

- b. John, a retired President of an aerospace company in San Francisco and always good at PR, definitely feels a kinship as we are survivors, was courteous and frank as always in making this reply:

On Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 12:51 PM John Quinn wrote: *Now Jerry, my memory may be slipping, but I distinctly remember that we were roommates somewhere, and it involved schooling of some sort. I am fairly certain I am way beyond the 'point-of-no-return' regarding those beliefs. Not to worry, we shall all end up as equals after we're gone. Take care Sailor! John.*

- c. The sequence of the dialog is somewhat confusing, but it was felt that some very positive and personal statements of faith needed to be made to such a Friend:

On Dec 17, 2018, at 10:42 AM, All Scripture <allscripture2013@gmail.com> wrote:

For an immediate reaction, (1) God the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible thru Jesus and Apostles in the NT and Prophets in the OT, (2) the intent was the salvation of your soul and the rest of the world from God the Your Creator, (2) Since the Bible came from God our Creator who knows us best and has the hairs of your head numbered (are yours even more than mine) and knows when you sit down and get up and move to Florida, it is sufficient of all you need for life and living; (3) wish I could reproduce for you the great and classical field of Christian Philosophy and Apologetics, but know you do research so considered online men like Elton Trueblood, Bernard Ramm, Dr. R. A. Millikan of Physics fame, Mosma with his book why 40 scientists in government and education believe in God and more; (4) McAdams on Biblical Backgrounds, (4) Werner Keller on The Bible as History translated from German into English. But don't overdo it as request that you follow and read One Commentary on the Bible.

Jerry McMichael By the way John your memory is slipping are you are confusing me with another AT1, my training was not in Biloxi but Millington Tenn., but sent you since photos of us in Argentia suppose that you were also in VW-15 or what it -11 or -13. Anyway, we have a great history together and thanks for the time, just hope as I told an AF Colonel working for be at Edwards AFB in F-16 flight test, "Just pray that you have not passed the point of no return, in that you have committed the continued sin of unbelief which is without forgiveness. The Ascended Christ sent God the Holy Spirit to earth to convince the world including you of sin, righteousness, and judgment, so it is His opinion that you must worry about, not mine. Hope it goes well with the Two of you.

- d. Has it previously been mentioned the general post on Ephesians and this commentary that was shared with John to start the dialog:

On Dec 17, 2018, at 9:06 AM, All Scripture <allscripture2013@gmail.com> wrote: *It is hardly possible to consider oneself as all around open and educated without a good survey of the Bible, even as only classical literature, even better to honor and respect the Bible both as a Book your parents revered and as the divine Word of God and from God. Perhaps you should consider it during this special holiday season. Since this is a lot of Bible, and needed, on this SunGrist WordPress site you can free*

download this chapter. If you have trouble because of your device getting to the SunGrist on WordPress, make it known in the comments below with your email address and a full PDF copy will be sent to you immediately. Or if you prefer, you can email for a ONE Chapter 1 PDF to sungrist@gmail.com .

<https://sungrist.net/2018/12/16/one-chapter-1-introduction-to-the-one-commentary/>

NOTE: You mention of Quantum physics and entropy, just the mention of Physics that most people avoid and as one privileged to get a degree in Physics and some graduate work, consider adding to the One Commentary on Ephesians, first written in 1984 and not yet on Amazon, both you and some Physics. Entropy is of course the second law of thermodynamics stating essential that the universe is running down, and we can find that the same is true in the social, political, and Christianity world. Let me know if you would read it. By the way if you are interested in knowing about the 15 books SunGrist has already put on Amazon, here is the link -- <https://sungrist.net/2018/12/13/books-by-sungrist-on-amazon/>

e. John like the Millenniums is a thoughtful sceptic, replied –

On Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 11:40 AM John Quinn wrote: No doubt Jerry. I am very interested in the Bible, when it was written, by whom and the intent of the writer/editor. Equally important is what was excluded and why, as well as collaborating accounts/absence thereof from contemporary societies. Lastly discoveries in the fossil record and ancient documents. On the whole I do not consider the bible a holy book and certainly not a reliable historical document. Wishing you a Merry Saturnalia, Warm regards, John Sent from my iPhone.

f. And lastly, John prided himself on his good public relations and sociability, being able to associate and fit in, he says, with his neighbors in Washington:

Don't get discouraged Jerry my old neighbors were over-abundantly religious of every flavor. I was close to many of them and was accepted- I kept them amused with relating to hairless apes. Take care Jerry and celebrate the Solstice- Spring is on the way.....John

NOTE: You have appreciate the fact that these discussions on religion and the Bible go back many years, and so much so SunGrist made the dedication of a website page to John as typical in the world of unbelievers at

http://sungrist.org/Reports_To_Make_Believers.html headed up with his sending photos of us, our squadron, and planes at Argentina, Newfoundland. In a section of this chapter, it must be mentioned since John is right of "I am not alone" with the photo sent to me with those words; since Shirley and the Millenniums also know that they are in the majority and feel good and secure about that. "Security of and in the World".

3. The belief system of the Millenniums must be mentioned, and it is purported to be an expression of the American Democratic Faith of American Thought, and adequately represents a majority in America and in the world. (The Description below is from online Got Questions at

https://www.gotquestions.org/Moralistic-Therapeutic-Deism.html?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=socialnetwork&fbclid=IwAR1Ps3uA_V1dCXBkE6XWegsPbcQG_DuEQdfsfnf8B38LzXD_2UeZ_hGuKmp8 :

"The term Moralistic Therapeutic Deism was first coined by sociologists Christian Smith and Melina Lundquist Denton in their 2005 book Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers (Oxford University Press). Based on extensive research, they identified the predominant beliefs of American teenagers, even those that claim to be Christians. They named the core beliefs Moralistic Therapeutic Deism or MTD. The five core beliefs of MTD are as follows:

- 1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.*
- 2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.*
- 3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.*
- 4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.*
- 5. Good people go to heaven when they die.*

3-2: CHRIST IS OUR PEACE.

"For he is our peace " the book of Ephesians tells us. In the words of the NEV, "For he is himself our peace " (2:14). Christ Himself is our peace. And under this subject heading, we will briefly review the exegetical contents of the book of Ephesians with sub-headings of: (1) Peace between God and man; (2) Peace between Jew and Gentile; (3) Peace in the individual heart; and (4) Peace on earth.

Five key verses of all of Ephesians are found in 2:14-18

"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." (KJV)

1. Peace between God and man. "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby " This speaks of the doctrine of reconciliation. How a sinful mankind was reconciled to a holy God thru the price that Christ paid in His death on the cross. It is the heart of the gospel that Paul talks about in I Corinthians 15: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures " (1-3 KJV) It is similar to justification. It declares the righteousness of God as Paul writes in Romans, "that he (God) might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." (3:26 KJV) Just and the justifier. The cross of Christ made God just for the sins He had overlooked in the past, the sins He will overlook or forgive in the present and in the future; and the cross of Christ made God the justifier of all that will believe in Christ. Redemption is also closely related. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus " (Rom. 3:24 KJV) God redeems or buys back through the cross the lost humanity that really belongs to Him in the first place. "But God, rich in mercy, for the great love he bore us, brought us to life with Christ even when we were dead in our sins; it is by his grace you are saved." (Eph. 2:4,5 NEV) All these words try

to describe what happened between God and man with Christ's death on the cross. Propitiation is another great doctrinal word about the cross. "Whom God hath set forth (Christ) to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God " (Rom. 3:25 KJV) Always, it is through what Christ did on the cross and through faith that there is propitiation, redemption, justification, and reconciliation. Praise be to our God for the great work that He wrought in Christ's death on the cross:

2. Peace between Jew and Gentile. This is the ultimate test of the gospel., If it can make peace between the Jew and the Gentile, it can do it all. Or more specifically, if it can make peace between the Jew and the Arab--although while there could be some question as to whether an Arab is a Gen tile, he is certainly not a Jew; and with only two categories in the scripture, he must be a Gentile--then the gospel is unlimited in its capability to bring peace on earth.

"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 " (Eph. 2:14-15 KJV)

God made Jew and Gentile one; God broke down, through the cross of Christ and faith in Christ, the great wall that stood between Jew and Gentile; God obliterated the enmity- and that within itself is peace--between Jew and Gentile; and God brought the two together in one new humanity. That is peace. Yet we don't see peace between every Jew and every Gentile. We definitely do not see peace between most Jews and most Arabs. What happened? God made peace between them. The capability is there. The potential exist that did not exist before Christ's death on the cross. Yet it is through faith as well as through the cross. Individual faith. Each individual Jew and each individual Gentile must personally exercise faith in Christ's blood for the peace to be effective. What peace that already exists on this earth through faith in Christ, Paul will later urge all Christians to capitalize on. **"to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives." (Eph. 4:3 NEV)**

3. Peace in the individual heart. As the individual--any individual believes, the individual heart rests at peace. It is a peace that comes from knowing that all is right between us and our Maker. That the way He has provided for salvation--call it propitiation, justification, redemption, reconciliation, the cross, the blood, or in many-other descriptive terminology of the Bible--that way has been accepted by the believing individual. It is Philippians, not Ephesians, that talks of, "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (4:7 KJV) But it is Ephesians that speaks of, "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (3:19 KJV) Passing knowledge is passing understanding; keeping the heart and mind is like unto being filled with the fulness of Gods and the great prayer of Paul for all Christians in chapter three of Ephesians ends with a reminder: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 1:20,21 KJV)

That brings peace. It even goes beyond the requests of prayer in Philippians that prefaces the "peace that passeth understanding": **"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil'. 4:6 KJV)** Our requests which we can think of and ask of God are to be continuously made to God; but the message of Ephesians is that God can do far more than we can even ask or think. That brings peace. A confidence of the power that works inside us: **"For through him (Christ) we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (Eph. 2:18 KJV)**

4. Peace on earth. The angel announced the birth of Christ: "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." {Luke 2:10,11 KJV} A multitude of heavenly host was with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (2:14)

Did the heavenly host lie when it said, "PEACE ON THE EARTH"? You don't see peace on the earth. Could the heavenly host been deceived even as it looked down from the vantage point high above at what was happening in the Roman Empire of 1 A.D.? No, I think not. For peace was on earth, because as of then Christ was on the earth. For, "Christ is himself our peace."

Once on this earth, Christ "came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (Eph. 2:17 KJV) Preaching peace, Christ said: **"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." (John 14:27 KJV)** Preaching peace, Christ said: **"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever "** (John 14:16 KJV); Preaching peace, Christ said **"I will not leave you comfortless I will come to you." (John 14:18 KJV);** and Preaching peace, Christ said: "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:11-3 KJV) And lest we as Christians miss all these benefits of peace, Paul reminds us near the conclusion of Ephesians to be practical about the matter, appropriating for ourselves this inward peace and power by: **"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (6:10,11 KJV)**

3-3: A PRACTICAL COMMENTARY.

Peace as the world can give through "Star Wars" may or may not come, as laudable as are the efforts of President Reagan. Peace on this earth may not even be possible except in the sense spoken of by the heavenly host in announcing the birth of Jesus when they said, "peace on earth and good will toward men." Or peace may be available only in the sense Jesus meant when He said the peace He gave was not as the world gives. Some even think that while peace is an idealistic and worthy goal for achievement, it is not practical to consider that it will spread over the whole world.

Ephesians is practical. The book talks of a peace that is practical and that is immediately achievable in this life and with prospects for deeper and more lasting peace in the life to come. ONE COMMENTARY ON EPHESIANS, like Ephesians, is practical. Initially focusing in the devotional comments on some of the down-to-earth and practical subjects like the boss, the job, security, and purpose, it from the beginning shows the relevance of Ephesians to the life we live each day.

Ephesians is a book about life; and ONE COMMENTARY, taking the clue and tone from Ephesians, is a practical commentary on life. Both face up to the worst that man can be as alienated from God and without hope in the world as well as the best man can be as in the words of Stott as part of God's New Creation. There are grand, way-out themes in Ephesians. It occasionally soars all the way up into heavenly realms to view the decisions that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit made in the councils of eternity, yet each time Paul's feet return to this earthly planet where with renewed inspiration a practical application is made that will help the Christian Pilgrim progress along the thorny paths of life. ONE commentary is a commentary on life as well as on Ephesians. Ephesians itself is a commentary on life.

Existing commentaries on Ephesians--both old and new- have made contributions to this study, and acknowledgements where possible will be made to these scholars.

However, ONE commentary is more functional than academic: the goal has been to cull that which is practical in the daily living of the Christian life. And since this is also the goal of God through Paul, who would have us "complete every task and still stand", the extent to which scholarship has been faithful to the purpose of God for Ephesians in the New Testament Canon has helped to bring us all into a unity of understanding on this portion of the Word of God.