

890 PEACE LIKE A RIVER

Isa. 66:12

"I will extend to her peace like a river,
and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream."

Introduction:

Cor Veterans Day - formerly
Memorial Day. called
Armistice Day.

With cheers for the living
and with tears for the dead,
We visit the multitudinous graves
and think of those who gave their lives
for America,

Whether they be interred in
the woods of Shiloh,
or the solitudes of Chancellorsville,
or the pleasant meadows of Gettysburg,
or among the poppies of Flanders Field,
or on the rocky slopes of Iwo Jima,
or on the blood-soaked soil of Heartbreak Ridge.

There is something stirring & uplifting about
the noble & brave sacrifices of the fallen.

Father Ryan has written:

"A land without wine is a land without history.
A land that wears a laurel crown
may be fair to see;

But tinge a few sad cypress leaves
around the brow of any land,
and be that land barren, beautiful, and bleak,

It becomes lovely in its consecrated coronet
wins the sympathy of the heart
and ~~the sympathy of~~ the heart
and of history.

Crowns of ~~roses~~ ~~flowers~~ fade —

Crowns of thorns endure.

Calvaries and crucifixions take deepest hold
of humanity.

The triumphs of might are transient,
they pass and are forgotten —

The sufferings of right are graven deepest
on the chronicles of the nations."

Over the gate of Soldiers Field at Harvard
are these words by Emerson:

"Though love repine and reason chafe,
There comes a voice without reply,
'Tis man's perdition to be safe,
When for the truth he sought to die."

Yet it is wrong to believe that all
who pay the supreme sacrifice in battle
for freedom are safe in heaven.

Ben Burroughs, author of "Sketches", wrote:

"Every man who died for freedom
Has a place with God on high,
and beside our Heavenly Father
They will live and never die."

~~"So Memorial brings memories
Of days that have gone by
Thoughts of those who dwell in heaven
So our freedoms never die."~~

I. THE NEED FOR PEACE.

1. The world is sick of war.

2. after the Battle of Shiloh, where Johnston tried to push Grant into the Tenn. River, Henry M. Stanley wrote:

"It was the first Field of Glory I had seen in my way of life, and the first time that Glory sickened me with its repulsive aspect and made me suspect it was all a glittering lie.

"My thoughts reverted to the time when their feathering bodies were the idolized objects of their mother's passionate love, their fathers standing by, half-fearing to touch the fragile little things, and the wings of civil law outspread to protect parents and children in their family loves, and the blessing of the Almighty overshadowing all.

(OVER)

"Then, as they were wearing manhood, through some strange wars of Society, men in authority summoned them from school and shop, field and farms, to meet in the woods on a Sunday morning for mutual butchery, Civil Law, Religion, and morality complaisantly standing aside while 90,000 young men who had been preached and moralized to for years were let loose to engage in the carnival of slaughter."

3. The Need for Peace in the Human Heart

II. THE NATURE OF PEACE.

1. "Like a river"

2. World wide peace —
and the prince of peace.

"Here's a voice on the wind of the world speaking dreams from the ancient books: 'they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.'

You can hear it, earth, you can hear it
in the crackle of cities that burn,
in the lancing cry of the children,
in the silence of them who will never return.

" There is a voice on the wind of the world,
beating loud on the uttermost shore:
'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation
Neither shall they learn war any more.'

There is a voice on the wind of the world,
the voice long-crushed.
War to the waters, the dust, and the cloud,
if the voice be hushed!"
— Lon Woodburn, Contemporary American.

3. Peace Within the Individual.

Jesus said (Jno. 14:27) —

"My peace I give unto
not as the world giveth."

The world's peace is Temporary; Divine peace eternal.
" " " " partial. " " absolute

The world's peace is disappointing, " a ^{satisfying} ~~list~~ of paper
" " " " no stronger than ~~the~~ paper

Divine peace is as strong as the Word of God.

The world's peace is purchased with the blood of men,
Divine peace was purchased with the blood of
the Son of God.

III. The Source of Peace.

1. God Himself — "I will extend peace"

A. "He is our peace". Eph. 2:14

B. We must not leave God out

"There is a stranger in the council hall
Where nations meet to plan the peace again.
He sits unnoticed by the farther wall,
His eyes upon the leaders among men.

His ears attend the clearly laid designs
For living in tomorrow's homes and marts,
as though beneath their spoken words & lines
He hears the inner voices of their hearts.

But when the delegates of all the world
Have cried their million wants,

and lists are long,
and after blueprints, charts, and plans are hurled
In varied protest at the core of wrong,
He is our hope; He is the peace we seek.

O listen, world, and let the stranger speak!

- Esther Baldwin York, Contem. ^{poet} ~~and~~

2. To Whom Does God extend Peace?

A. Not to the wicked. Isa. 48:22,
"There is no peace, saith the Lord,
to the wicked."

B. God's anger manifested to those
who have rejected Him. Isa. 66:4, 15/6, ²⁴

C. God extends his peace to him that
is poor and of a contrite spirit,
and trembles at His word. (V. 2)

(1). Repent of sin

(2). Hear the word of the gospel
and turn to Jesus Christ.

Isa 48:18, "O that thou hadst hearkened to
my commandments!

Then had thy peace been as a river, and
thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

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