

Let Us Seek and Pursue Peace
(Psalm 34:11-16)

Introduction:

1. In vs.11 David made an appeal for God's children to hearken to his instructions.
2. Harkening to David's instructions will enable us to enjoy a number of special blessings, including "seeing good days."
3. In our lesson we are concentrating on David's instruction to "*seek peace, and pursue it.*"
4. To help us appreciate the seriousness of this instruction, let us first consider God's feelings.

Discussion:

- I. GOD LOVES "PEACE," AND HE HATES "CONFLICT"
 - A. In Psalm 133 David showed how God feels about "peace."
 - B. In Proverbs 6:16-19 Solomon showed how God feels about "conflict."
 - C. When we understand how God feels about "peace" and "conflict," perhaps we can more fully appreciate why . . .
- II. GOD'S CHILDREN ARE TO SEEK AND PURSUE "PEACE"
 - A. Romans 12:18
 - B. Romans 14:19
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b
 - D. Hebrews 12:14
 - E. To help us understand what is involved in seeking and pursuing peace, . . .
- III. LET US EXAMINE 3 PEACEMAKERS IN THE BIBLE
 - A. According to Genesis 13:7-9, Abraham was a peacemaker.
 - B. Isaac, Abraham's son, was also a peacemaker (Genesis 26:17-22).
 - C. Jesus was "*The Prince of Peace*" (Isaiah 9:6).
 1. He gives peace to His followers (John 14:27; 16:33).
 2. We must also consider His teaching in Matthew 5:9.
- IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTAINS SOME SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS THAT RELATE TO SEEKING AND PURSUING PEACE
 - A. (Ephesians 4:1-3) We are to "endeavor" to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - B. (Philippians 2:1-4) Seeking and pursuing peace involves being considerate of others.
 - C. (Colossians 3:12-13) We are to follow the Lord's example.
 - D. (James 3:13-18) We must pursue the right kind of wisdom.
 - E. (1 Peter 3:10-11) We must control our tongues.

Conclusion:

1. Seeking and pursuing peace is not always easy.
2. It can sometimes be quite challenging, especially in the world we live in today.
3. However, those who seek and pursue peace will receive a great blessing -- "*they shall be called the children of God.*"
4. We learn how to become children of God in Galatians 3:26-27.