

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

"Life and Peace"



For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death: but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject

to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

—Romans 8:5-9.

Only those who have caught a glimpse of the deep inner satisfaction and joy that come from spiritual living can fully appreciate the profound truths contained in this inspiring message from the pen of the consecrated Paul. This devoted disciple of the Christ knew the need of keeping before the converts to the new faith the high standards of living which they had embraced. Theirs was no longer the material, carnal world, but the world of the eternal values of the Spirit. "The Spirit of Christ" had been awakened in these pioneers and a new Way was being shown them. The light and beauty of this Way had been fully revealed to St. Paul, and it was his delight to share this revelation with both Jew and Gentile.

The focusing of the mind on the realities of the spiritual plane is a task that confronts every spiritual aspirant—not an easy one, as every neophyte well knows. In *The Cosmo-Conception* it is pointed out that "When the division of the Sun, Moon, and Earth took place, in the early part of the Lemurian Epoch, the more advanced portion of humanity-in-the-making experienced a division of the desire body into a higher and a

lower part. The rest of humanity did likewise in the early part of the Atlantean Epoch. This higher part of the desire body became a sort of animal soul. It built the cerebro-spinal nervous system and the voluntary muscles, by that means controlling the lower part of the threefold body until the link of mind was given. Then the mind 'coalesced' with this animal soul and became co-regent. The mind is thus bound up in desire; is enmeshed in the selfish lower nature, making it difficult for the Spirit to control the body. The focusing mind, which should be the ally of the higher nature, is alienated by and in league with the lower nature—enslaved by desire."

The race religions were given to man by his divine Guardians so that he might overcome the desire body and gain control of the mind, but with the coming of the Christ a wider, more glorious vista was opened. To replace the separative race religions, the all-embracing religion of the Christ was given, so that the unifying Principle of Love might be awakened in the heart of every human being and an age of universal brotherhood made possible.

Thus have we been shown the way "home." We, as children of our Divine Creator, have wandered far afield into the byways and illusions of materiality, but the Path of Love and Service, symbolized by the Christ Child, now beckons us to return to the fold of our Father. Our minds, carnal and enmeshed in desire, have been led by the motives for human action offered by the material world: personal love, wealth, power, and fame, but now the love for which we must long is that only which is of the soul and embraces all beings, increasing in proportion to the

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life transmuted from the base to realms divine. Carefully tend the seed Pluto gives you!"

Came now a sound as of a giant seed breaking through the crust of ground with its new-sprouting power . . . and from that far spot gleamed a tiny gold ray. 'This was the giving of the Eighth Gift.

Into the pregnant silence now stepped Mercury, with his staff of climbing wisdom, winged shoes, and silver cap. Light as flashing quicksilver were his brilliant words that made such a contrast to the gloomy Lord of Death.

"I bear a gift as invisible as air!" he cried. "I shall give to the people of our Sister Planet a pair of wings to lift their minds, to give them a memory of all they have seen and an image to create what they will become. By means of my gift men shall use thought and reason, and never again give credence to the madness of war! O Earth Star, I give you these wings!"

He flung wide his arms, and a pair of wings, resembling a violet and golden butterfly, flashing with crystals, seemed to fly down to rest among the other gifts.

From the Earth came a clear murmur of approval. And this was the giving of the Ninth Gift.

Finally came the Lady Moon, in flowing robes of green and silver, flecked with pale moonstones and opalescent pearls. Her fair face glowed with an inner radiance as she floated light as a moonbeam to the pile of noble gifts given by the Planetary Lords.

With one sweep of her bright arms, she embraced these symbolic offerings, and cried, "Now, at last I may give my gift! Through my magic touch the children of Earth shall receive your gifts and nurture them to full maturity in their hearts. Angels shall attend them until they come to join the ranks of the gods. Peace flows in the music of my moonlight . . . wisdom, peace, love, and brotherhood. Here are your gifts, O Sister Earth!"

She rose to a magnificent height, with stars in her compassionate eyes and trailing moon clouds far behind her, gathered all the glory of the heavens to her tender bosom where rested the treasure of a lordly host, and then descended with the speed of light into the dimness until she was naught but a spark in the outer spaces.

Came a long and vibrant hush . . . Then spoke a Voice from the infinite heights above:

"Peace on earth . . . good will to men."

"LIFE AND PEACE"

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needs of the recipient; the wealth, that which consists solely of abundance of opportunities to serve our fellow men; the power, that alone which makes for the upliftment of humanity; the fame, none save that which increases our ability to spread the gospel of Christ, that all who seek may find the Way.

The Holy Season of Christmas comes as a golden opportunity and invitation to all men to seek the upward Way, illuminated by the flaming Light of the Christ Love. May the hearts of humanity the world over respond to this mighty wave of Power so that they may enter into "life and peace."

OUR FEATURE PAGE

For the drawing from which was made the cut used on our feature page this month, we are indebted to a talented student, Hubert L. Goodrich, of Ranier, Oregon. This friend, expressing the view that "our channels open up only through use," has graciously presented us with a number of drawings. His loving cooperation in the Work is deeply appreciated.

ERRATUM: We regret very much that an error was made in the child's reading for October. The chart was read as if the Sun, Mercury, and Venus were in Pisces instead of Aries. A rectified reading has been furnished the subscriber.