

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Midnight Clear

Week of December 8, 2018

Week 3: **Peace on Earth** (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Luke 2:13-14

Jeff began his message by pointing to a popular marketing campaign designed to help us visualize what it might be like to live in chaos, difficulty and hardship yet inwardly find peace, tranquility and a heart that's at ease. What thoughts or emotions does this vision stir in you?

On that first Christmas night we're told that, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth **peace** to those on whom his **favor** rests'" (Luke 2:13-14). Let's revisit those two concepts, *peace* and *favor*.

1. **Peace**

As Jeff pointed out, the biblical concept of peace refers to inner well-being, tranquility, completeness, wholeness, serenity. How do you respond to the heavenly announcement that such peace is now available with the birth of Jesus?

2. **Favor**

Our text says that this peace is available "to those on whom [God's] favor rests." God takes special delight in those who are reconciled to Him through their faith in Christ—something that's available to all of us. If God's favor rests on you, how have you experienced His peace personally?

The link between God's favor and peace can be traced back to the Priestly Blessing in Numbers 6:24-26, which says, "May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his **favor** and give you his **peace**" (NLT).

3. **Nothing to worry about**

The Priestly Blessing begins, "May the Lord bless you and protect you." If the Lord is indeed our provider and protector, then we have nothing to worry about, right? Practically speaking, how can this truth help us deal with worries that threaten to rob us of God's peace?

4. **Nothing to prove**

The Priestly Blessing continues, "May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you." If the Lord is indeed smiling on us, then we have nothing to prove, right? How important is the smile of God to you? Have you ever sensed Him smiling on you? If so, tell us about it.

Pray together that God would help you experience the favor and peace of God.