

iv. Their righteousness is not in themselves (16-17).

B. The One Thing that Makes Them Righteous (18-19)

i. Ephesians 2:13-14

ii. Romans 5:1

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How does *peace* describe well what people pursue? What ways can you think of that reveal mankind's lack of peace?
- How does the Bible explain the source of mankind's hostilities?
- What dimension to peace does Isaiah 57:1-2, 20-21 draw our attention to that we might otherwise fail to think about?
- What truth from Isaiah 57 encouraged you the most? How will it effect your relationship with God?
- Why do you think our trusting in something other than God, our idolatry, is described as immorality in this chapter?
- What areas of your life are you in need of peace? How does Christ's peace address your particular situation?
- The root of Israel's idolatry was trusting in themselves or man rather than God. Do you ever struggle with trusting God? How so? How might we pursue Christ for help with this?
- Are there some particular lies that you have pursued for peace? Are there some you have been currently pursuing? What truth might bring about trust in Christ?

The Pursuit of Peace

Jerry Cisar — September 11, 2011

Text: Isaiah 57

Introduction: The Pursuit and Promise of Peace

A. Peace has been man's pursuit ever since the garden.

B. Isaiah tells how God will restore peace to mankind through Christ!

i. Isaiah 9:6-7

ii. Isaiah 26:3

iii. Isaiah 27:5

iv. Isaiah 32:17-18

v. Isaiah 52:7

vi. Isaiah 53:5

vii. Isaiah 54:10

C. Isaiah 57 is about the increasing peace of Christ's reign; what true peace is; how pursuing lies for peace will never bring it, and about how peace comes to those who pursue it through truth.

I. Defining True Peace (57:1-2, 20-21)

A. The Delusion (56:12)

B. Who are the righteous... who are the devout men?

Motyer: "*Just as righteous means 'those right with God' ...so 'men of unflinching love' means those on whom the steadfast love of God has been poured.*"

C. No one ponders...

- i. No one **thinks anything** of it.
- ii. No one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil.

Bonhoeffer: *“Whether we are young or old makes no difference. What are twenty or thirty or fifty years in the sight of God? And which of us knows how near he or she may already be to the goal? That life only really begins when it ends here on earth, that all that is here is only the prologue before the curtain goes up—that is for young and old alike to think about.”*

- iii. vs. 2 *Those who walk uprightly, enter into peace, they find rest as they lie down.*

D. But not so the wicked:

- i. What is this mire and mud, this filth, that is tossed up from within them? (Mark 7:20-23)
- ii. Eternal hostility (Isaiah 66:24)

II. Those Who Pursue Lies for Peace (57:3-13a)

A. A Description of the Wicked

- i. Ezekiel 16:48
- ii. John 8:39-44

B. Israel had replaced real worship with idol worship.

C. The Real Issue (7-11)

- i. **melek** (king), not Molech.

➤ Psalm 118:8-9

- ii. At the heart of their idolatry is self-reliance (10, 12)

III. Those Who Pursue Truth for Peace (13b –19)

A. Four things that describe the Righteous

- i. *He makes the Lord His refuge and inherits the land!* (13b)
 - Matthew 5:5
 - Psalm 37:3-11
- ii. *“I live...with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit..”*
 - Matthew 5:3

- iii. *“I will...comfort...those who mourn...”* (18)

➤ Matthew 5:4