

## **“Peace be with you.” John 20:19b (NASB)**

The risen Jesus Christ greets the disciples with this common phrase three times in this section of the Gospel of John. It is more of a blessing than a greeting.

Our world is filled with violence. Yet, people long for peace. Some seek peace in the desire for more wealth, always working to have more but never satisfied. Some seek peace in the misuse of power, waging war, and only increasing the presence of violence. Some seek to dull their pain or solve their problems through alcohol or drug abuse, but these only destroy the body. Some believe that peace can be found through compromise with other religious movements or with a sinful society. This only distorts the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. True peace is found only in a relationship with God, which is achieved solely through the work of His Son, Jesus Christ.

In verses 19 and 20, Jesus speaks these words as He shows the disciples His nail-scarred hands and pierced side. Proving that He is a body of flesh and truly has been raised from the death of the cross. This shows us the sacrifice that He made for our peace and our salvation.

In verse 21, Jesus again repeats the phrase with the commissioning of the work of the disciples. Jesus sends them and us to continue His ministry. The gift of life and peace that Jesus offers includes us in the work of the Kingdom of God, providing each of us with a sense of purpose.

The third time Jesus gives the greeting, He offers further proof of His resurrection, telling Thomas to believe. His message to each of us is “do not be unbelieving but believing.”

The gospel message is clear: Embrace our Savior Jesus and obey His teachings. We need His peace, and so does the hurting world we live in. When Jesus greets you with the phrase “Peace be with you,” know that true peace and contentment are only found in Him.

**Scott Kinnick – CBC Executive Board**

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## **Weekly Prayer Points**

“Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22,23 (NIV).

All because of Jesus! All because of His death & resurrection! We are not consumed by the Lord’s just wrath. Forgiveness! Grace! Mercy! New blessings every day! This weekend, some Brethren congregations will celebrate Love Feast. This week, pray that in your own heart, and the hearts of others, Jesus’ love and salvation will be new every morning.

### **Please pray for these congregations and pastors:**

- Three Springs Congregation in Blain, PA seeking pastoral leadership
- Tire Hill Congregation in Tire Hill, PA and Pastor Brian Simmons

### **CBC Prayer Committee**