



# Advent and Evangelism Series



## Alexander Sunday Bible Study – Christmas Season

Lesson #2 – PEACE | December 7, 2025

To end the Year 2025, we're conducting a 4-week series studying the traditional advent wreath and a series on evangelism. We'll explore the Romans Road, which is a wonderful Biblical resource for sharing the Gospel. As we do each week there will be a lesson, a little homework (questions in GREEN), and lots of great discussions.

Listed below are the four candles associated with the Advent Wreath and the sequence of lighting.

- **First Sunday:** Light the first purple candle (**Hope** or Prophets' Candle).
- **Second Sunday:** Light the first purple candle again, along with the second purple candle (**Peace** or Bethlehem's Candle).
- **Third Sunday:** Light the first two purple candles and the pink candle (**Joy** or Shepherd's Candle).
- **Fourth Sunday:** Light all three previously lit candles plus the final purple candle (**Love** or Angel's Candle).
- **Christmas Day:** A fifth, white candle (Christ Candle) is often lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent the arrival of Jesus.



### Introductory Remarks (and a little Christmas History)

The second of the Advent Candles is PEACE. We've all experienced periods of peace, as well as periods of unrest. As humans, we have a natural longing for peace, and it plays a central role in the power of hope we discussed last week. As we start this lesson, I thought we would have a little Christmas history related to one of our most famous and beloved Christmas carols, *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing*.



In 1739, Charles Wesley wrote a Christmas hymn titled "Hark How All the Welkin Rings" for his and John Wesley's collection *Hymns and Sacred Poems*. Its opening line used the old English word *welkin*, meaning "the heavens," envisioning all creation ringing with praise for the newborn King. Published as "A Hymn for Christmas Day," the original ten-stanza hymn, paired with a slow and serious tune, never gained wide popularity. Over time, editors introduced changes that annoyed the protective Wesley brothers. A major shift came in 1753 when evangelist George Whitefield revised the opening to the now-famous "Hark! the herald angels sing." His wording replaced the archaic language and invited singers to join the angels' proclamation, giving the hymn a more joyful, participatory tone.

Another transformation came a century later. In 1840, German composer Felix Mendelssohn wrote a spirited melody to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gutenberg's printing press, insisting it was suitable for festive civic use rather than sacred text. Yet in the 1850s, English musician William Hayman Cummings combined Mendelssohn's music with Wesley's words as revised by Whitefield. The unexpected pairing produced the majestic version of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" loved worldwide today.<sup>1</sup>

### The PEACE brought by Jesus' birth

Jesus is the promised Prince of Peace foretold in the Old Testament, the One whose coming would heal, reconcile, and restore. Through His sacrifice, He brought peace with God, removing the barrier of sin and offering forgiveness to all who believe. In the present, Jesus gives His followers an inner peace the world cannot give, namely a quietness of heart, strength in trials, and the calming presence of the Holy Spirit. And one day (as we studied in our recent *Prophecy Series!*), He will bring perfect and everlasting peace to the earth, fulfilling every promise of justice, unity,

<sup>1</sup> Rephrased text from <https://www.hymncharts.com/2022/12/15/hark-the-herald-angels-sing/>



and restoration. In Jesus, peace was given, is given, and will be fully established forever. Provided below are Bible passages that speak of PEACE associated Jesus, including several Old Testament prophecies predicting His arrival.

Reference	Text
Old Testament Verses	
Isaiah 9:6	For to us a child is born... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 53:5	...the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.
Micah 5:2 and 5:5	<sup>2</sup> But you, Bethlehem... out of you will come... one who will be ruler over Israel.... <sup>5</sup> He will be our peace.
New Testament Verses Declaring Jesus as the Source of Peace	
Luke 2:14	Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.
Acts 10:36	You know the message God sent... telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.
Ephesians 2:14	For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one...
Ephesians 2:17	He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
2 Thessalonians 3:16	Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

### Questions for Consideration

- How has knowing Jesus and appreciating God's power and His sovereignty brought PEACE to your life? Consider the above verses in developing an answer.
- In what areas of your life are you most likely to experience worry and a "lack" of PEACE? In what ways do you engage God in battling against areas of unrest in your life?
- In what ways do we see a lack of PEACE impacting the secular, non-Christian world? Be specific.

### PEACE through Evangelism

Provided in the table below is the comprehensive version of *The Romans Road* that integrates eight (8) verses from the book of Romans presented in Lesson #1. The key is to make our interaction with people conversational and let the Holy Spirit speak through us. Most of us tend to get stressed and feel pressure to say the perfect things. We do need to be prepared, but the key is a willingness to share and a love for the person to whom you're speaking.

#### The Romans Road – the Path to Salvation

Step	Observation	Verse
1	Everyone has sinned.	Romans 3:23 – <i>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.</i>
2	No one is righteous on their own.	Romans 3:10 – <i>There is no one righteous, not even one.</i>
3	Sin has a penalty.	Romans 6:23 (a) – <i>For the wages of sin is death...</i>
4	God offers a free gift.	Romans 6:23 (b) – <i>...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</i>
5	Christ died for us.	Romans 5:8 – <i>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.</i>
6	We must confess and believe.	Romans 10:9–10 – <i>If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved...</i>
7	Salvation brings peace and acceptance.	Romans 5:1 – <i>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
8	Nothing can separate us from God's love.	Romans 8:38–39 – <i>Neither death nor life... nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God...</i>

- Using the "Observations" list above, develop a question (or series of questions) you could use to ask a person related to PEACE that can open a conversation with someone for sharing the Gospel? Consider your response to Question #3 above.

