

Peace on Earth

2 Peter 3:3-14 (NIV)

Advent tells us that Peace on Earth is not just possible;
it's inevitable.

FOR PEACE TO RULE ON EARTH, JUSTICE MUST COME FROM HEAVEN

(v.3) Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

(v.8-9) But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

The shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., was the 355th mass shooting in the U.S. this year — or more than one per day on average so far in 2015. (NPR)

"Prayer Shaming after Mass Shooting in San Bernadino."
—Atlantic Monthly

"Your 'thoughts' should be about steps to take to stop this carnage. Your 'prayers' should be for forgiveness if you do nothing - again."

—Chris Murphy (D)

"I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful against some of them. My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. [Where Innocent People were painfully displaced and brutally murdered]...Or think of Rwanda, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By dotting on the perpetrators in a grandparently fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them?"

"Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love."

—Miroslav Volf, *Free of Charge*

Judgment is necessary; for if God is to remain good, God must remain just.

THE GOAL OF JUDGMENT

2 Peter 3:12-14

That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

(v.7) The present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

The goal of judgment is to purge or purify.

The gospel tells us that the God who delights in forgiving does not forgive at the expense of justice. Instead he himself is afflicted in Divine Judgment.

WHAT GOOD COMES FROM JUDGMENT?

(v.14) So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

WE BEGIN TO NURTURE THIS NEW LIFE IN CHRIST
(NOT OUT OF FEAR BUT LOVE)