



*Blessed Are
the Peacemakers*

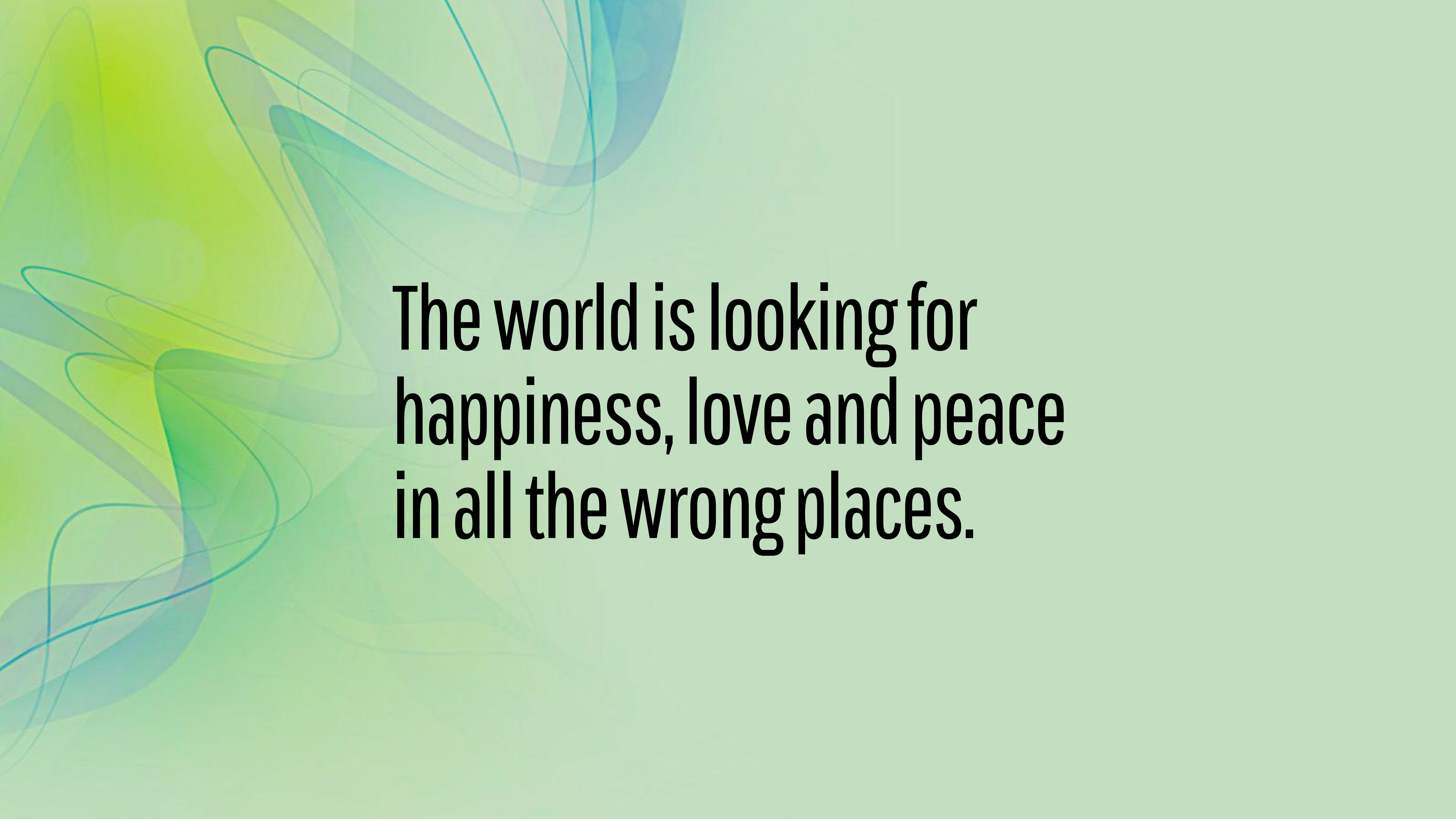
THE BEATITUDES (10)

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so
will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

Luke 17:26

2. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,
 3. heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,
 4. treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
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2 Timothy 3:2-4



**The world is looking for
happiness, love and peace
in all the wrong places.**

The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

What Does It Mean to Be a 'Son of God'?

To be called a son (or child) of God is not just a title –it's a reflection of God's nature in us. It speaks of identity, relationship, and representation.

John 14:8

Hebrews 1:3

WHAT IS PEACE?

OXFORD DICTIONARY

- ▶ Freedom from disturbance, mental or emotional calm.
- ▶ A state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended.

MOUNCE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY: Greek = eirene

- ▶ Describes the situation that comes from the cessation of hostilities or war.
- ▶ Peace can ironically prevail internally, even when violence of war is at its peak externally.

We will never truly have peace with one another until we have peace with God.

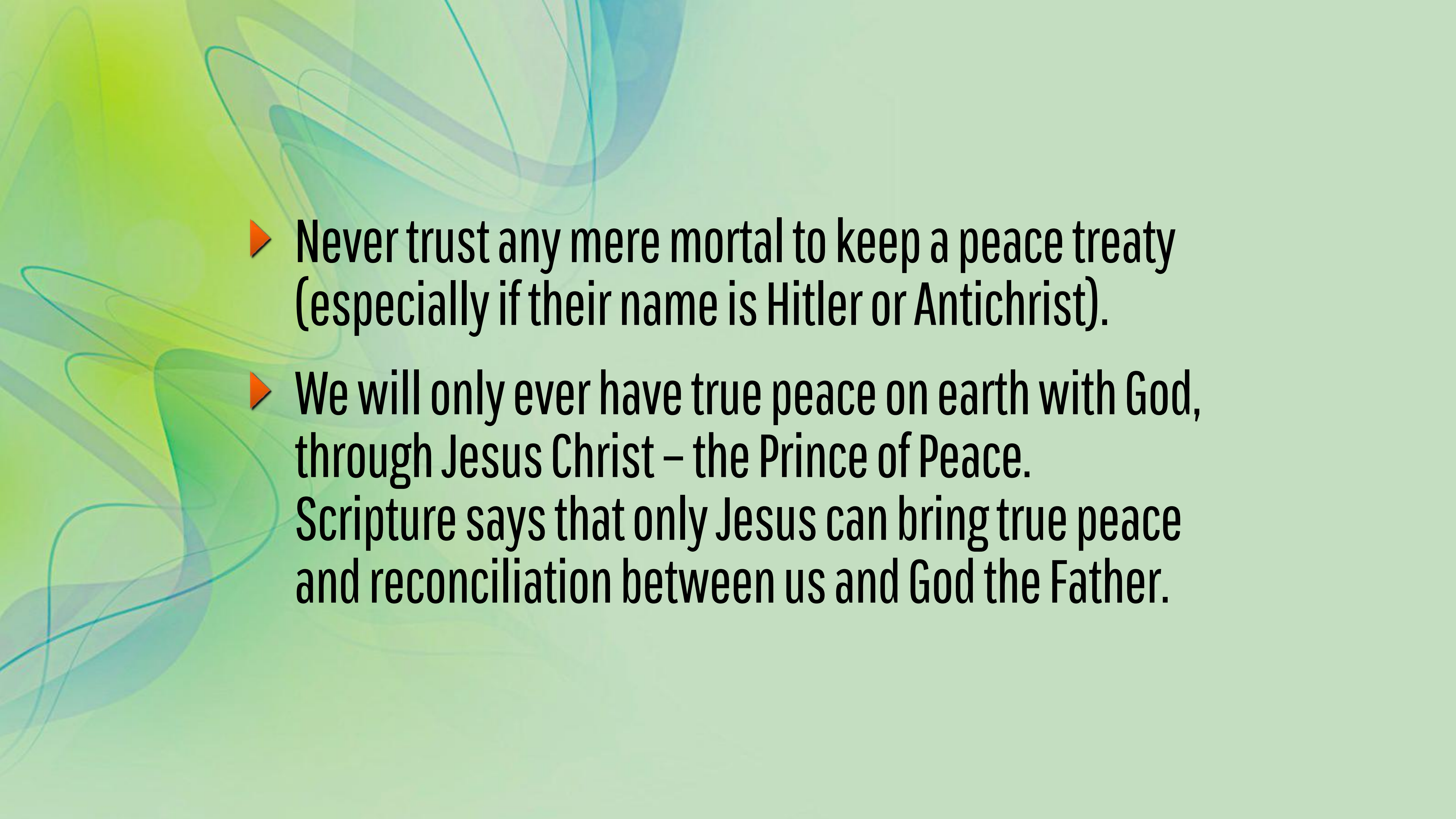
Why is this? Because of Sin.

The reason why we are in the mess we find ourselves is simply because of sin. The only true explanation for the world's trouble, is sin: human lust, greed, selfishness and self-centredness all emanate from a heart that is corrupt.

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Matthew 15:19

Because it is from the heart these issues flow, anything man attempts to do to bring about peace will be at best short lived and temporary.

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- ▶ **Never trust any mere mortal to keep a peace treaty (especially if their name is Hitler or Antichrist).**
 - ▶ **We will only ever have true peace on earth with God, through Jesus Christ – the Prince of Peace. Scripture says that only Jesus can bring true peace and reconciliation between us and God the Father.**

18. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;
19. that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them

2 Corinthians 5:18-19a

14. For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility
15. by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,
16. and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.
17. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:14-17

First Point

It is God through Christ Jesus Who is our peace.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:1

He broke down the wall of hostility between us and God and it is Jesus Who makes peace and preached peace to all mankind.

19. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
20. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

Second Point

As ambassadors for Christ, we are the messengers who have been sent by the highest Government of all – that of Jesus Christ.

And as Ambassadors of Christ, we have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation. As those who have been entrusted with this most precious message, we have absolutely no right, what-so-ever to tamper with this message.

6. I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel
7. not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.
8. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-8



Third Point

In our own sharing of the Gospel, we need to be sure that what we preach has a significant emphasis on Who Jesus is.

And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.

John 16:8

So rather than us try and convince the world of its sinfulness, we exalt Jesus and emphasise and preach that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Acts 2 - Verse 14 onwards:

Peter declares what Joel wrote.

Verse 22: Peter begins to glorify Jesus

Verse 36: Peter delivers the punch line: “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

At this point the listeners were granted the faith to believe. And it was through this gift of faith that they believed that Jesus is Christ and Lord.

The Holy Spirit convicts them and they ask out of this conviction how they should respond. In effect, “We believe that Jesus is Messiah ...what must we do now?”

To which Peter replies

Verse 38: Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Believing in Jesus first is pivotal to the Gospel.

John 1:6-7 John the Baptist's a forerunner

John 1:49 Nathaniel's great revelation

John 3:16 & 18 Jesus own declaration

John 3:36 John the Baptist's declaration

John 4:39-42 Samaritan woman at the well

John 4:46 & 53 Jesus heals the official's son

25. When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, Rabbi, when did You come here?
26. Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.
27. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.
28. Then they said to Him, What must we do, to be doing the works of God?

John 6: 25-28

Jesus answered them, This is the work of God,
that you believe in Him whom He has sent.

John 6:29

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who
looks on the Son and believes in Him should have
eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:40

Jesus tests what is in Peter's heart by asking him if he wants to leave too after Jesus' difficult teaching, and Peter replies:

66. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life

69. and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God.

John 6:66 & 69

Peter's answer when he was questioned as to who he believed Jesus was:

15. Simon Peter replied, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
17. And Jesus answered him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 16:15 & 17

All through **John 7** to the end of the book,
John's emphasis is not on man's sinfulness.

What is the central theme of the Gospel of John?

John 20:30

We see through the Book of Acts as people came to faith, the emphasis is on believing firstly that Jesus is the Christ, Messiah, Son of God.

Acts 8:26-38 Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 10:43 Everyone who believes in Him

Acts 11:21 Believe in the Lord

Acts 13:48 Appointed to eternal life

Acts 14-16 Great emphasis on believing Jesus to be the Christ, Messiah, Son of God as the key primary trigger for a person coming into salvation.

29. And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.
30. Then he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
31. And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.
32. And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.
33. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptised at once, he and all his family.
34. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them.

Acts 16:29-34

8. The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
9. because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
10. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
11. For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.

Romans 10:8-11

14. How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
15. And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written,
How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!
16. But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, Lord, who
has believed what he has heard from us?
17. So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

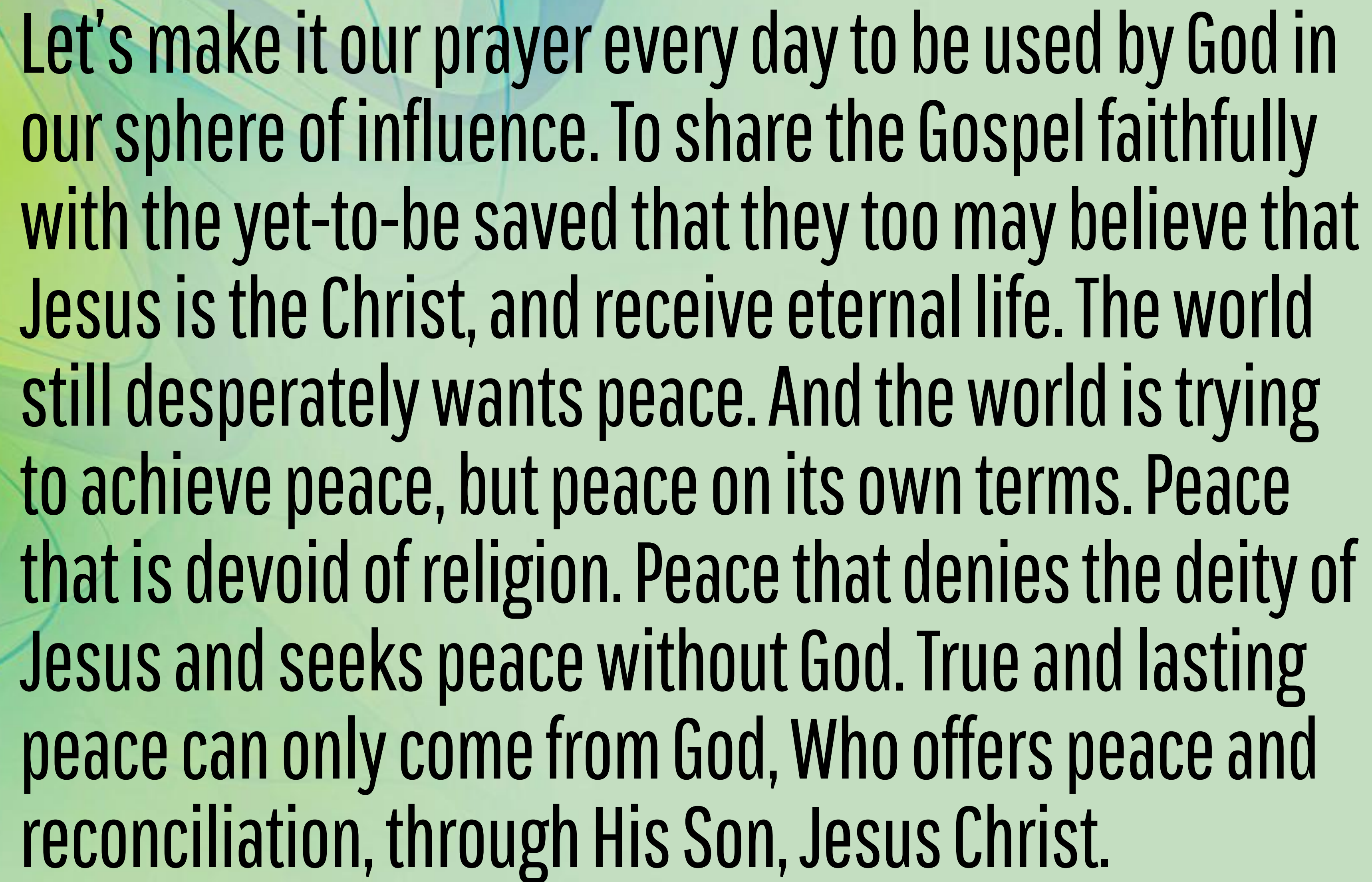
Romans 10:14-17

It is we who carry the baton for this last lap, and we must not drop it at this point.

Yes! Include the issue of sin, include the need for repentance, do centre on the Cross of Jesus Christ, include regeneration (dying to self and the necessity of being born again) and include water baptism and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

But make sure that in all that you preach, that faith and belief in Jesus as Christ, Messiah, Son of God is given all prominence and due eminence. Preach Jesus as the Christ, and preach Him First!

Because we are Kingdom citizens, we are sons and daughters of God. We reflect His nature, His character and we reflect and continue His mission. We each have the privilege and honour of bringing the terms of peace to the yet to be saved, so that they may hear the words concerning and about Jesus, and that by hearing, as God's Word promises, saving faith and knowledge may come. Our Beatitude says that those who are peacemakers, are called Sons of God, if you are a son or daughter of God – then you are a peacemaker.



Let's make it our prayer every day to be used by God in our sphere of influence. To share the Gospel faithfully with the yet-to-be saved that they too may believe that Jesus is the Christ, and receive eternal life. The world still desperately wants peace. And the world is trying to achieve peace, but peace on its own terms. Peace that is devoid of religion. Peace that denies the deity of Jesus and seeks peace without God. True and lasting peace can only come from God, Who offers peace and reconciliation, through His Son, Jesus Christ.