



# PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

---

## CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK THREE: PURPOSE

---

### *Reconciled*

“For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” ~ JOHN 3:17

It's the verse after THE verse. Where perhaps the most famous verse in the bible, John 3:16, describes the plan of God, John 3:17 picks up with the purpose of God: Reconciliation. God gives us Jesus so that our standing before God might be made right. No longer are we condemned in our sinful state, but instead through Jesus we would be saved.

I grew up in the Catholic Church, and I remember as a child I took special pride in memorizing certain aspects of the mass. I soon learned when to stand and when to kneel, quickly anticipating when to move from one posture to the next. I had prayers, creeds and responsorials memorized, maybe saying them loud enough to be heard by someone close to me. All this to earn favor. At best, I thought that I could prove my worthiness to God or my devotion to him. At worst, it was all simple pride. Obviously, I misunderstood my basic condition before a holy, sinless God.

“And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” ~ ROMANS 5:5

All my self-righteous actions were worthless. It would be decades later that all of my striving and people-pleasing would be shown for the chaff that it was. My own performance could never bridge the gap between myself and God - only God himself could reconcile the condition I was in.

God reconciles us through the death of Jesus, thus we are no longer enemies, powerless to sin. Instead we are filled by the Holy Spirit, able to know God and live according to his will. What a difference it is to see God in this light! I cannot save myself. Instead, it is the Father who provides a way out of spiritual death. And he not only provides a hand-up out of the grave but fills us with his very essence...a life transformed for his purpose. May we leave self-reliance buried in the grave and come to trust in God's reconciling work.

# Prayer

Today, I rejoice and thank You Father that I have peace with You and have access to Your amazing gift of grace - through Jesus.

Thank You that although I was far away from You through my sin and disobedience, I have been brought close to You through the precious blood of Christ. Through the cross of Christ the hostility that I had with You, has been removed and I have been reconciled back to God and have not only become a citizen of heaven along with all who trust in Jesus and have been made a member of God's household, His beloved child and joint-heir with Christ.

I glorify Your wonderful name that there is now no condemnation and that my reconciliation with God is permanent and eternal - for the wrath of God was poured out upon Jesus, who took my place, so that I could be brought back into fellowship with You and reconciled with God.

I praise Your wonderful name for ever and ever. Amen and Amen.

