

I'd like to turn with you to one of the finest chapters in Isaiah, the 53rd. Of course every ch. in the Bible is good and every ch. has lessons in it that God has for us. But there is no ch. in the Bible that has more in it, I believe, than this 53rd ch. of Isaiah. I was -- If I was to try to discuss the entire ch. with you I would need a day or two-- not simply a short chapel. So I'm going to confine myself to one short sentence. Not to a verse, but to a part of a verse.

We look together at the fifth verse. We look first at the KJV, the 5th v. starting in the middle of the verse. "The chastisement of our peace was upon Him." The == To the average person today that does not convey a great deal of meaning-- "the chastisement of our peace." Most of us do not realize that a genitive can have quite a variety of meanings. We are apt to think of a subject or of a possessive. We are not so apt to think of a result. But we do have results expressed that way. in English.

It is much better in some of the more recent translations which make it "that produced our peace." That produces or brings about our peace. That certainly was the meaning that was intended by the translators of the KJV. But I don't think that the average person of today would get it. The chastisement that produces our peace was upon him.

This word "peace" represents a Hebrew word shalom. Among Heb. speaking peoples today that is a common greeting-- shalom, peace. If you said peace to me as a greeting, I would think you thought I was about to hit you over the head or something! You said, Peace, don't hurt me. Let's have peace between us. But the word shalom is not well represented by the English word "peace." Unfortunately I don't know of any English word that exactly represents it. It has far more meaning to it than any English word that I know of.

It is sometimes translated in the KJV as "good health." Sometimes as "prosperity." Once as "rest," Peace is well-being. You're not fighting somebody, and he's not fighting you. Your country is not at war. Is it not the cessation of hostilities meaning, merely. Perhaps we get a little of the idea when we speak of peace of mind. Or peace of soul. Perhaps a little of it, but I don't think we altogether get it.

I don't know any English word that really gets this Heb. word shalom. All that is good for you to put you in first class situation. All that, the Lord has accomplished. Some people go about with sad faces and you think what a poor fellow. He's a Christian, and he's suffering. Aren't you sorry for him. I've heard it said some very earnest Christians don't get much joy out of their Christian life. God wants us to be sorry for our sins. He wants us to be sorry if we fall short as we do. And do our best to get better, to look to God to sanctify us and make us better, but he wants us to have peace in our souls. There is no excuse for a real Christian having a nervous breakdown.