

# What about peace on Earth?

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## Intro

Many fallacies of His birth:

- not in December,
- more likely in the spring

Bishop of rome in 4th century declared this in an arbitrary way. This month was a time feasts and celebrating. It seemed that he chose this month as a way of making the celebrations more Holy.

Sat'urnalia who was the god of agriculture and December was the month of celebrating.

Evergreen was used as decoration during this time.

A popular text

Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, good will toward men. *Luke 2:14*

Many people are in the grip of anger and it squeezes out any capacity for love, mercy or grace.

It is during this season that emotions are coming out and resentments are being made. Fights are made and people get hurt! So where's the peace?

However we are made to believe that there is peace on earth by the coorprate world.

There are many translations of this passage. What's the problem with these?

## The grammatical question

The greek gives clarity

**Sigma** the "s" in greek

**"pleasing"** the main acting verb

“eudokias” nominative case

“peace and good will to men”

will identify what man gets.

from newer manuscripts

“eudokia” genitive case

“upon earth peace in men who are well-pleasing [to God]”

qualifies something

from older manuscripts

So which is it? Well we refer to the oldest: “eudokia” (see NIV translation as preferred).

## The theological question

It is not saying that God’s peace has to be earned.

This is saying that peace is on those who have God’s unconditional favor (*that is they are saved?*)

When you’re at a sporting event your child has your favor. This is what this passage is saying.

Other passages (only one other phrase): *Matthew 3:17* the transcendence of the dove from heaven.

This is my beloved Son with whom I am pleased once and for all.

God’s peace is reserved for his children.

## Types of peace

### Judicial peace

*Romans 5:1* we have peace with God! This is a peace that makes friends out of former enemies! The barrier between me and God has been removed. Since we have been brought near.

Illustration of judge, taking off his judge’s robe, putting on his coat and paying the speeding fine.

In the practical sense this means that my identity that is under the pile of shame and guilt has been removed.

*Romans 8:1* correlated to *Romans 8:35-37*

## Experiencial Peace

*Philippians 4:6-7*

## Application

- Do not allow my well being to be found in people
- Resist the temptation to live up to other people's expectations
- I will not hunger from affirmation or peace from anything (or anyone) else except for Christ's peace.