**THE ENEMY OF LEANING**

*“Who is this coming up out of the wilderness leaning on her beloved.”*

Song of Songs 8:5 (NIV)

*4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*

Romans 4:4-5 (KJV)

*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

Romans 5:1 (KJV)

I. The Gospel of Peace with God

A. We preach a gospel of peace. (*Ephesians 6:15*)

*And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

B. God is continually called “The God of Peace.” (*Romans 15:33; 16:20;
II Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 4:9*)

Romans 15:33 *Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

Romans 16:20 *And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.*

2 Cor 13:11 *Finally bretheren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*

Phil 4:9 *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

C. The Gospel makes peace between God and man. It ends the enmity that exists because of sin.

D. Peace is assured through the blood of Christ’s cross. (*Colossians 1:20*)

*And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him I say, whether they be things in earth or things in heaven.*

E. Christians are marked by peace. (*John 14:27*)

*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

F. Christ is our peace. (*Ephesians 2:14*)

*For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

G. We proclaim Peace to the world. (*Acts 10:36*)

*The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: He is the Lord of all.*

II. There are two religious positions in the world: “Do” or “Done.”

A. Do we “fulfill” conditions so as to “achieve” peace with God? (The way of Cain) or

B. Has Christ fulfilled all the conditions for our Salvation? (The way of Abel)

III. Cain and Abel (*Genesis 4:2-8*)

*2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in process of time it came to pass that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. 4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: 5 but unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. 6 And the Lord said unto Cain, why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shall rule over him. 8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

A. Cain brought God a bloodless offering of the cursed ground and was rejected by God.

B. Abel brought a firstling of his flock, a substitute. God accepted his offering.

C. Nothing will destroy “Leaning upon our beloved” quicker than a religious spirit.