**May 28, 2017 “He is Our Peace” Ephesians 2:13-15**

Tomorrow in many places throughout the United States there will be parades and speeches made commemorating those who have died or served in the Armed Forces regardless of what branch of the military in which they served.

In World War II alone, it is estimated that between 50 and 80 million people, military and civilian died during that conflict. We have a number of organizations which claim to have been established to prevent conflict and negotiate peace accords which have failed miserably. While the latest statistics show that the number of armed conflict are down this year, the number of casualties of conflict has risen. One statistic I found, showed a tripling of deaths related to conflict which includes acts of terrorism since 2008.

I am reminded of the words of Jeremiah 6:14 where the he cries out and says “Peace, Peace but there is no peace.” Unfortunately, conflict does not always occur in secular settings. It can raise its ugly head at work, at home and even within the church.

In the verse prior to our main text of today which is Ephesians 2:13-15, Paul addresses the issue of the conflict between the Gentiles and the Jews. He does so in Ephesians 2:11-12.

1. But now
   1. These two words found throughout the Word of God
      1. But now
      2. But God (Ephesians 2:2-5)
   2. They always imply an intervening of God into the lives and hearts of men
      1. How does God intervene?
   3. In Christ
      1. Through His Grace alone
      2. By His Love alone
      3. Through His Mercy alone
      4. Through Christ alone
         1. Everything we will ever receive from God the Father will come through our relationship with Jesus Christ… the Son
         2. Everything we will ever receive from Christ is because of His relationship to God the Father
2. Who were far off
   1. Enmity between the Jews and Gentiles
      1. Temple court
         1. Illustration of different courts
         2. Inscription
            1. Josephus describes the plague

“No Gentile may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”

* 1. Acts 21:27-32
     1. Jews and Gentiles different in every way
        1. Clothes, food, holy days, etc.

1. Now there is a resolving of conflict
   1. What is the root cause of all conflict
      1. Secular or religious… doesn’t matter
   2. The root cause is always sin
      1. Sin with its rebellion toward God
         1. That is why there will never be peace in this world
         2. Because when sin entered in, death is the result (Romans 5:12)
   3. By the blood of Christ
      1. What did the blood of Christ do?
         1. It paid the penalty of sin
   4. Once sin is dealt with conflict is gone
      1. Revelation 21:1-7
      2. Revelation 21:22-27
      3. Revelation 22:3-6
2. The Lord’s Supper
   1. When Jesus died
      1. Judaism was destroyed
         1. I see a great effort to bring this back into the present day church
         2. All the ceremonies, all the rituals, all the “commandments contained in the ordinances”
         3. Not the moral law of God
         4. But the ordinances…
      2. He has made us into one body
         1. How????? Through His complete and final sacrifice for sin
   2. Into “one new man” (Ephesians 2:15)
      1. Neos… meaning “new in time”
      2. Kainos… something “new in quality”
         1. Something never seen before
         2. “THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD”!!!!!!!