

Passages that may be confusing

Matthew 10:34-37 34

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn ”“a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— 36 a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’37 “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

At first glance this saying sounds like a contradiction of Isaiah 9:6 which refers to Him as the “Prince of Peace.” At Jesus birth recorded in Luke 2:14 hear the phrase “on earth peace to men.” In John 14:27 He is speaking to His disciples when He states “Peace I leave with you”. It is true that Christ came to bring peace—peace between the believer and God, and peace among men.

The Greek word for peace here means a Utopian peace, the ending of all strife, the good life without troubles. In reality there is no such thing. Yet the inevitable result of Christ’s coming is conflict—between Christ and the antichrist, between light and darkness, between Christ’s children and unbelievers. The same is true when some in the family believe and some don’t. Those who refuse the Gospel of peace may well become bitter and hostile towards those who wish to rescue their souls. To be worthy of Christ, means to be in the right relationship with him, repentance and confession of sin and faith in the Gospel. To love father and mother more than Christ means to prefer their false teaching, sinful ways, their personalities, to the relationship of repentance and faith in Christ. To love parents more than Christ means to make gods of them, their ideas and teachings.