

At the end of the war in Europe 75 years ago, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said this in his famous address broadcast from 10 Downing St.

My dear friends, this is your hour.

This is not victory of a party or of any class. It's a victory of the great British nation as a whole.

We were the first, in this ancient island, to draw the sword against tyranny.

But you know despite that speech Churchill went on to say that the War wasn't fully over; due to the fact that Japan still remained undefeated.

Addressing the Church in Corinth the Apostle Paul also announces the fact that hostilities have come to an end.

But the war Paul talks about wasn't fought against a tyrannical regime, but against everything that separates us from God; and he says the victory wasn't just partial, but complete.

Verse 21 says: For our sake God made Jesus to be sin, who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

In other words, sin separates us from our creator so that we find ourselves warring against him.

But Paul says Jesus came to cease hostilities by dying on a cross for each one of us, so that we can have a new life of peace with him, and our sins forgiven.

Verse 17 says:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Or to put it another way, Paul says the war's over, we're forgiven; and are at peace with God through faith in Jesus.

As a result, we become new people who live for a different commanding officer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And you know the amazing thing is that although God's the offended party, its God who offers the terms for peace.

Verse 18 says: All this is from God, who through Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their sins against them.

Now although Winston Churchill made his announcement on May 8th, 1945, that Victory in Europe had been achieved.

The war wasn't officially over until August 15th, after Japan surrendered and signed official documents on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

In the same way, we'll never have peace with God until we surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us.

And if you've never done that this morning the Apostle Paul as an ambassador for Jesus, says in verse 20:

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

When that happens, we experience true peace and end to all hostility that separates us from God, because of the Victory won by the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen