

## 9.16.18 ~ John 14:27-31, Jesus Promises Peace

Our world lacks peace: personal, cultural, national and international. People want peace in their personal lives, there is much turmoil with personal pressures, chaos and confusion; we hear the ever present desire for peace in many of our expressions: "I just want some peace and quite," "if I only I had peace about things in my past."

We expect our law enforcement agencies to "keep the peace," at the end of a person's life it is often said that they are able to "rest in peace," meaning that death itself is seen as some sort of terminal peace, i.e., RIP.

Most people seek peace all their lives but they don't know how to get it. People seek peace through financial security, academic endeavors, recreational activity, or they hope social or political change will produce it.

Most of the time people speak about peace they are talking about a lack of conflict and strife with other people, but in reality the most important aspect of peace has to do with a person's right relationship with God.

The only time we are truly going to be able to experience peace with God is when we come to Him through Jesus Christ the Lord, asking forgiveness for our sins salvation for our soul. True peace brings an absence of fear and presence of contentment in everything; that kind of peace can only come from God.

**Philippians 4:11-12**, "Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need."

It was Paul who wrote those verses, and he genuinely understood the peace of God, even in the midst of being in prison (Acts 16:23-25), or being brutally attacked by a mob of angry people (Acts 21:30-39), or being caught in a turbulent storm out at sea (Acts 27:21-25).

Peace usually focuses on the absence of conflicts outside of ourselves and the inner turmoil we feel when we are fearful, abandoned or conflicted about something.

But truth be told, peace is much more than the absence of conflict and strife. On His last night with His disciples, before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus promised His followers that that would have a supernatural peace that would come from God Himself.

**Read John 14:27...** Unbelievers cannot experience the Peace of God, in fact they are at enmity with God, as all mankind has been since the early days in the Garden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin's curse upon all of us, for we are all sinners (Romans 3:23), breakers of God's law and therefore we are at war with God, deserving His punishment (Romans 3:10-12).

We are either lovers of God who desire to honor Him, or we are friends with the world that is opposed to Him, making us His enemies.

**James 4:4**, "You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

The bad news is that as sinners, enemies of God, we deserve death; but the good news is that God loves us and wants us to be reconciled to Him through Christ (Romans 6:23; 5:8; 8:1).

**Colossians 1:20-21**, "and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross... And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach."

**2Corinthians 5:21**, "He made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Jesus took our punishment so that we not only have peace with God, but that we have the peace of God. Notice that Jesus says (John 14:27b), He gives us His peace, God's peace, as Paul says (Romans 15:33), "Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen."

The peace Jesus gives to the disciples would come on the day of Pentecost, with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit and the peace of God would forever separate the followers of Christ from the followers of the world, for the unbelieving people of the world are Godless, they do not have God's peace.

The world offers a different kind of peace, a momentary peace that is found in a variety of pseudo peace placebos, like sex, substance abuse, materialism, false religion, power, health, and many others.

But you know, the world cannot offer peace because it is evil (Isaiah 48:22), "'There is no peace for the wicked,' says the Lord." The reason the people of the world lack peace is because only those who belong to Christ can experience true peace in this life.

Jesus instructs His disciples (John 14:27d), "Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." It seems strange that after telling them He is leaving them "peace," He tells them not to be troubled or fearful.

The Bible tells us we have to believe God and to act upon it, i.e., the Holy Spirit indwells and empowers all true believers; and yet we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), and also to walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16). The Holy Spirit is said to be our supernatural Teacher (1John 2:20), and yet we are commanded to study the Scriptures (2Timothy 2:15).

We are responsible to willfully act in a manner that represents what we have been given in Christ (1Peter 3:11) "seek peace and pursue it," (Psalm 119:165) "Those who love Your law have great peace."

God gives us His peace, as Paul writes (Philippians 4:6-7), "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Think about it, God has forgiven all our sins - past, present, future - He has granted us eternal life through Christ. What do we have to worry about or be fearful of? Absolutely nothing (**Colossians 3:15**), "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts," we can have a clear conscience before God, no unbeliever can have that.

If you have unrepentant sins in your heart, they will affect your relationship with God, and with God's people, David experienced this, take a look at **Psalms 32:1-5**.

Why have a guilty conscience, carrying around sinful things you've done, tell God you are sorry. Get your relationship right with God; if your relationship is not right with God, it will not be right with God's people whom you are to be in fellowship.

Maybe you forgot that God's Holy Spirit is in every believer, do you think He is not going to notice?

If you are aware of sin in your life, why hang on to it? Talk to God about it, ask Him to help you, get your relationship restored with God like it should be (1John 1:9), "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God's forgiveness equals God's peace.

**Read John 14:28-29...** Think about what Jesus has said to these guys during this long evening: He is going to be taken away from them and put to death; but He will come back to them, and take them to be where He is; He tells them He is going to send them another One like Himself [a Member of the Godhead], another Comforter [Helper], the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who will live in them.

He tells them He is going to give them His peace and they are not to be troubled; but these guys have been cared for by Jesus for the past three years, all their physical, emotional, spiritual needs provided and now their provider is going away and they cannot go with Him. Of course they are going to be worried, frightened, and extremely disturbed!

Jesus longs to go back to the Father, to be at His right hand in heaven. Jesus is fully God, equal to the Father; and yet, having put on the flesh of a man, Jesus is in submission to the Father while He is the Son of Man.

Jesus affirms that the "Father is greater than I," not in nature or authority or power, but in the role Jesus came to fulfill for the Father; as the humble Servant of God, the Savior of mankind, the Lamb of God, as John the Baptizer exclaimed (John 1:29), "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

**See Philippians 2:5-8...** Jesus is getting ready to finish His most important act, death on the cross for our sins.

**See Philippians 2:9-11...** When Jesus accomplishes all He came to do, He will be exalted by the Father.

Notice in **John 14:29**, Jesus reminds them He has been telling them things that are going to happen: His arrest, crucifixion, resurrection, return to the Father; so that when these things do occur, their faith will increase.

Now Jesus tells them (**John 14:30**), that His time with them is coming to a close, and that the ruler of the world system [Satan] is coming, although, he has no hold on Jesus, i.e., He has no power over Jesus, and although Satan will be successful in having Jesus killed, it will in fact bring about the Devil's own destruction (1John 3:8), "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."

Satan has been trying throughout history, since the Garden of Eden, to thwart the plan and purpose of God. It was Satan who used Herod to try and kill Jesus by murdering all the baby boys in the vicinity of Bethlehem; Satan tempted Jesus as He began His ministry; and repeatedly we read in John's gospel how Satan incited evil men against Jesus to try to capture and kill Him before the cross; but to no avail, because it wasn't yet Jesus' time to die.

**John 10:17-18**, "For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

In **John 14:31**, Jesus' statement here is a declaration of His love for the Father; for although Jesus as the Son of Man was innocent of any crime, He was also the Son of God, and He could have easily chosen not to go through with His sacrificial death on the cross, but He did.

Jesus completed what He had come from the Father to do, knowing the pain and torture He would receive at the hands of evil men; but worse than that was the separation He would experience from the Father, as the wrath of God is poured out on Him for the sins of the world.

It was now time for Jesus and the eleven to leave the upper room and begin walking through Jerusalem, toward the Mount of Olives, with their destination being Gethsemane, and so, Jesus says, "Get up, let us go from here." As they walked, Jesus continued teaching them all that is recorded in chapters 15-17.

At the beginning of chapter 18, Jesus and the eleven finally leave the city of Jerusalem and walk across the Kidron Valley, to the Garden where Jesus will be arrested and taken from them; at which time they will scatter like rabbits, hiding, until the morning of Christ's resurrection.

*Pastor Mike*

>'(((><