

Peace, A Priceless Gift
John 14:27-31 and 16:32-33

Peace! Such a priceless commodity and such a longed-for reality. The world seeks peace, the nations strive for peace, and yet it never seems to be realized. Peace treaties are broken, hatred rises, as does nation against nation. As precious as national peace is, there is an even greater peace!

Jesus prepared His disciples for a very difficult future, not by denying the coming difficulties, but by giving them the gift of peace. Jesus told them plainly that in the world they would experience tribulation, trouble, persecution, sorrow, and hatred. Yes, hatred! (John 15:18-19)

- **Peace defined. What is it?** The word *peace* has a multifaceted definition.

The Old Testament word for peace is *shalom*. This word is used some 236 times in the O.T. and refers to a “state of well-being, health, wholeness.” It is the greeting used to express a desire for “the blessing of wholeness or tranquility” to be with a person. It is used to express, hello and goodbye!

The New Testament word for peace is *Eirene*. This word εἰρήνη (i-rah'-nay) is from a root word that mean to “join together, to reconcile.” It is interesting to note that while, worry or anxiety are the tearing apart or division of the heart and mind; peace is the joining together.

This morning I simply want to expound upon two important realities of the peace which Christ gives:

- **Peace with God.** We begin here, because apart from peace with God, we can never truly experience the peace of God!

Due to man’s rebellion against his Creator, man is separated from God and is in a state of enmity with God. Adam and Eve were driven from the garden, and their precious fellowship with God was forfeited.

Only Christ is able to reconcile lost sinners to a holy God. It is interesting that this chapter ends with these words, “**Get up, let us go from here.**” Where was Jesus going? Why was Jesus going to the cross? How would Christ make peace?

Col. 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. (KJV)

Col. 1:20 “and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (ESV)

- **Peace of God.** Jesus promised the disciples that they would suffer tribulation in the world, but He also promised to give them peace.

***Pax Romana* - the peace that the Roman world understood - peace by the sword! The peace Jesus gives is peace by the Spirit! The peace that Jesus leaves us is produced within us by the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)**

Christians will face many afflictions and difficulties, Jesus promises them. In this world we will have tribulation. Tribulation is defined as “pressure, pressing upon, affliction, and distress.” We are constantly being pressed in upon by the enemy, the world, and the flesh. But we have peace!

Our peace is not the absence of trial or trouble, but rather the presence of Christ while experiencing the trials.

2 Cor. 4:7-18 (Paul addresses the Christians at Corinth not to lose heart.)

Philippians 4:4-9 (Paul encourages the Christians at Philippi with a peace that passes understanding.)

Col. 3:15 (Paul encourages Christians at Colossae to let peace rule their hearts.)

- ***Peace with one another.*** The outworking of our peace with God and the peace of God is now our pursuit of peace with one another. Satan is the master of division. He causes division and discord everywhere He prowls. He sows seeds of discord even among the brethren (within the church).

(1 Thess. 5:12-15, Eph. 4:1-3, Rom. 12:18, 14:19, and Prov. 16:7)

Application: Do you have peace with God through Jesus Christ?

Have you experienced the peace of God in times of difficulty?

Do you seek to live at peace with one another?