

**October 9, 2020**

Peace to you in Jesus' name.

All humans desire peace. The problem is that we are trying to achieve peace according to our understanding and in our fallen human wisdom. The results are always less than satisfying. Our best efforts always come up short because we fail to include God in our desire for peace. Today read with me from Philippians 4:4-7.

*4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Fallen humanity is unable to achieve a meaningful and lasting peace. There are several reasons for this. First apart from a relationship with God through Jesus we are enemies of God. We are at peace with God when we are justified by faith in Jesus. This is the only way to have peace with God.

There are certain obstacles to peace with God as well. Among these are pride, disobedience, and unbelief. Again I say that peace with God only became possible when Jesus died and was resurrected.

Adam's disobedience allowed sin and death to reign among all creation. Adam's sin utterly obliterated the image of God in man. Adam was a fair representative for all humanity in the Garden of Eden. As a result through Adam's sin judgment and death became necessary. Similarly, through the obedience of Jesus life, salvation, and freedom from judgment were made possible. As a result accepting Jesus as a personal Savior provides one with peace with God.

When one is at peace with God one will begin to demonstrate the qualities of Jesus in one's life. Qualities like compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. We become more forgiving. Those in Jesus Christ put on love as a garment. They will be at peace with themselves. There is also undeniable accountability.

Paul writes Christians are to rejoice in Jesus. Jesus is our source of joy. In John 15: 9-11 Jesus explains for us that, "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." We are only able to rejoice when we abide in Jesus.

The believer is to show a spirit of moderation and restraint. Matthew Arnold interpreted this verse as "Let your sweet reasonableness be known to all men." Why should we show "sweet reasonableness" to all men? Simply because Jesus is the Lord and His time is at hand. His return is imminent.

Constant communication with God helps us to remain at peace. We are to bring everything to God in prayer; our hopes, dreams, desires, and needs. Not only this, but we are to bring them to God in thanksgiving. Jesus instructs us in the Sermon on the Mount concerning worry and prayer, "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'what shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Our requests to God are not only concerning the material things of life, but as we read in James' Epistle we should ask for things such as wisdom. However, we must ask in faith. Through prayer we are able to intercede on behalf of those who are unable to pray for themselves. If we this way then we can know for certain, "...the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"(Philippians 4:7).

This God given peace defies all explanation. This kind of peace reaches to the very depths of our souls. The Psalmist tells us that God's peace is abundant and that it is a gift. We read, "Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:65). And "The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace" (Psalm 29:11). This godly peace is perfect, without defect. Isaiah writes for us that "The steadfast of mind Thou wilt keep in perfect peace, because he trusts in Thee (Isaiah 26:3). Pray with me.

*God of peace, thank You for ending our hostility to You through Jesus our Savior, amen.*

Jesus left us with these words, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world"(John 14:27; 16:33).

Until the nets are full