

Peace, Where It Is Found

Sunday, April 3, 1988

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

There is a passage of Scripture found in the 14th Chapter of John verse 27 in which our Lord said, *“Peace, I leave with you; My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled and neither let it be afraid.”*

My subject today is: “PEACE, WHERE IS IT FOUND?” Where is true, genuine, lasting peace found, *“peace that passeth understanding?”* How do we have peace with God and peace within and have peace with others? Not many people have peace.

I’m not talking about world peace. According to the Word of God, there never will be any peace in this world. Men are just speaking of folly when they speak of world peace. The Bible says, *“There shall be wars and rumors of wars”* as long as this world shall exist.

Because of the depravity of the human heart, there will never be peace between sinful men and sinful nations. So, I’m not talking about world peace, and I am not talking about ecumenical peace. Error and truth can never walk together. Don’t expect it to be so. Error and truth can never live together in peace.

There are men who believe in an absolute Sovereign God. They cannot walk in peace or live in peace with men who build idols. I’m talking about children of the lesser god and children of the Greater God; they cannot walk together in peace.

Men who believe that the Word of God is verbally inspired, is literally inspired, and actually the Word of God, can never live in peace with men who deny the Word of God. That is impossible. They are at opposite ends of the pole. They cannot have common projects and live in peace.

Men who believe in salvation by grace alone and the power of God and for the glory of God can never live in peace with men who believe in salvation by works, free will and human morality. You sooner expect the Pharisees to live in peace with the Lord Jesus Christ. They couldn’t do it. They nailed Him to a cross. Nor, could the Lord Jesus Christ live in peace with the Pharisees. He called them, *“A generation of snakes.”*

I'm not talking about world peace, which is impossible, and I am not talking about ecumenical peace, which is impossible if men are true to their convictions.

My message has nothing to do with psychosomatics, mind over matter. One does not find true peace through positive thinking. One does not find true peace through some kind of arrangement of his mental powers. Mind over matter will not bring genuine, lasting peace. It will only bring a veneer.

Our Lord said, "*They cry; peace, peace, but there is no peace.*" They know it, but they cry peace. The Lord said; "*They call me Lord with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.*" So, I'm not talking about a psychosomatic peace, positive mental attitude or positive thinking; that is not peace, but a veneer and is a phony peace.

A man can have calmness on the outside and be raging like a troubled sea on the inside. That is not peace. He may have peace out in public and have war at home. That is not peace! No sir; we are not talking about world peace or ecumenical peace; we are talking about real peace.

My Lord said, "*My peace I give unto you.*" This is real peace, genuine peace and lasting peace. This is peace and rest based on a sure foundation; "*This peace of God which passeth understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.*" This is the peace of God! It is certainly not understood by the natural mind, nor accomplished by the natural man.

Would you like to listen to this message? Why don't you pull up a chair, sit down, and listen. Where do we find real peace? I'm talking about real peace and rest, the peace of God. Where is it found?

This peace and rest is the common need of everybody; it is the common need every one of you out there. I've got our number today. This is what we need (peace) and it is three-fold. This foundation has to be laid before I can go any further. What is this peace that we need?

First of all: We need peace with God. That is our chief need. That is why we don't have peace in other areas. We don't have peace with God. That is the reason that parents and children, husbands and wives, bosses and laborers, people on the street and neighbors can't get along. They can't get along with God, so how are they going to get along with one another? They have no peace with God.

“Our sins have separated us from God and God is angry with the wicked.” Every son of Adam has a right to fear God. They have a right to fear death and a right to fear judgment. Every son of Adam has a right to fear what is called *“after that judgment.”*

Do you know where that is found in the Scripture? *“It is appointed unto men once to die and after that judgment.”* We have a right to be afraid. Christ said; *“If you die in your sins, you can’t come where I am.”*

Our souls are like the troubled sea because of sin. Our souls are like the troubled sea because we have no peace with God. We are a troubled people. We have no peace with God. That is our first need, peace with God.

Second: This peace that I am talking about is not only a peace with God, but it is also a rest. The warfare is over. The enmity is gone. I’m talking about the peace within, a satisfaction. Only a fool is satisfied with himself because *“Man at his best state is altogether vanity.”*

Listen to Solomon, He said; *“I have tried everything. I have tried wisdom, I’ve tried art, I’ve tried buildings, I’ve tried wine, I’ve tried money, gold and silver. I have tried women and I have tried everything. I withheld nothing from myself as the world’s richest, greatest man.”* He said, *“When it is all over, I find vanity of vanity; all is vanity.”* There is no peace, rest, joy or satisfaction to be found in anything that man can do, has, or has received.

In Romans 7, the Apostle Paul writes, *“The things I would do; I do them not. The things I would not do; I do: O wretched man that I am; who shall deliver me from this body of death?”* Before that David had written: *“Who shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord? Who shall stand in His Holy presence?”*

Who is going to ascend unto the hill of the Lord and who is going to stand there if he can get there? The answer is, *“He that hath clean hands and a pure heart who has never lifted up his soul to vanity and has never sworn deceitfully.”* That is a description of no one that I know, we are all sinners.

Our thoughts are carnal and our minds are worldly and covetous. Our dreams are confusing; our words are careless; our consciences depress and trouble us. We have no reason to be at peace in ourselves, with ourselves, or even within ourselves. There is no peace!

Third: Listen to this; We need peace with God and we need peace within and we need peace with others. No man is an island, and no man or woman lives unto himself. Our lives touch the lives of others. Our lives are interwoven with the lives of others.

There is much conflict, every day and night is a day and night of conflict. Much conflict is experienced in the home, on the job, at the schools, in the neighborhood and even in the churches. There is conflict, trouble, discord and misunderstandings constantly. People are not at peace, because they have no peace.

Do you have trouble forgiving? Do you have trouble forgetting? Do you have trouble understanding? Do you have trouble with envy or jealousy? Do you have trouble entertaining the best thoughts of others? Are you always suspicious?

You see; most people have these types of relationships. This is what I run into all over the world, wherever I go; I don't run into peace, rest, joy or blessed quietness. I run into trouble, discord, misunderstanding and unforgiving spirits. I run into sharp words, discord and all of these things.

This destroys peace. Men by nature have no peace with God. Consequently, they have no peace within and therefore they have no peace among themselves. Is that not right? You know it is. Let me say it again, men by nature have no peace with God. Because they have no peace with God, they have no peace within their heart. Because they have no peace within their heart, they have no peace with anyone else. That's the problem!

Do you want to know where true peace is found? I will tell you this, it is not for sale. This is not something that you can do, or something that you can buy at a church. This is nothing that you can borrow, beg or profess. This is not something that another son of Adam can give you. This peace is the gift of God, and it is in Jesus Christ.

Listen to my text again, *"He is the Prince of Peace."* That is what the Scripture says; *"He is the Prince of Peace. I am come that you might have life and peace. My peace I give unto you. My peace I leave with you. Let not your heart be troubled."* Peace is found in the King of Salem (Peace), Christ our Peace.

I'm not over simplifying this thing; no, I'm not! I am not simplifying it at all. Every man who has Christ has peace. Every man who has not Christ has not peace. Let me read you a Scripture that I found in the Book of Luke, Chapter 10:5-6. He is talking to His disciples and He said, *"And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again."* Christ is our peace.

In John 16:33, He said this; *“These things have I spoken unto you that in Me you might have peace.”* Where? You find peace in Him, Christ. Ephesians 2:14 says, *“He is our Peace.”* Let me explain that in the light of these three things that I have mentioned. I said this; men have no peace with God. We need peace with God. That is where it all starts. Having peace with God, we will have peace within, and having peace within, we will have peace with others.

Christ is our peace with God. Romans 5:1 says, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* That peace has been purchased. That enmity has been put away. He put away the enmity. Colossians 1:20 says, *“He made peace through the blood of His cross and reconciled us to God.”*

We were without hope, without help and without God, without Christ in this world, but He, by the blood of His cross hath made peace. First Corinthians 1:30 says this, *“Of Him are you in Christ Jesus who of God is made unto us all we need, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.”* Having these things, we have peace with God.

If you will read Hebrews 10 sometime, you will find peace with God in the Person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.”* He is my peace with God.

God does not look at me and find any satisfaction. God does not look at my deeds and find any pleasure; I beg your pardon. God looks at His Son, the Person of His Son and says; *“This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.”*

He looks at the work and deeds of His Son and the life and death of His Son and He finds satisfaction and reconciliation. If I am in Christ, I am at peace with God because Christ is accepted and *“I am accepted in the beloved.”* I have peace with God! The cannons of heaven are no longer turned in my direction. The wrath of God is no longer upon us who are in Christ. We have peace with God, and having peace with God means that we have peace within. Romans 5:1, listen to this; *“Therefore, now, being justified by faith, we have peace with God.”* It says in Romans 8:1 says, *“And therefore, there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ.”*

There is no death to fear, no judgment to dread and no eternity to fear. *“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? Who is He that condemneth; Christ died? Who can separate us from the love of God? If the Son shall make you free you are free indeed.”* We are free! Free from what? We are free from the curse, free from the penalty and free from the power of sin.

I shall not look to the law or to my works, religion or my baptism; I look to Christ. He is my peace with God. Being my peace with God; He is my peace within. I'm not going to cease to struggle with the old man, but I reckon the old man to be dead in Christ. I shall not cease to mortify this flesh, but in Christ I am righteous. I shall not cease to repent and to believe, but in Christ I am accepted.

Christ is my Righteousness, my Advocate and my High Priest. He is my peace and I can rest. *"I have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* I have peace and rest through His righteousness, His death, His substitutionary work, His intercession, His advocacy and His entering into the veil as my forerunner. That is the anchor of my soul.

God is not angry anymore. God is reconciled. Being reconciled to God I can have peace within. I don't have to fear. I don't have to be afraid; He is my Father and He is your Father, and we have the Spirit of Adoption. We cry, *"Abba Father."* He said, *"Cast your cares upon Him; He cares for you."* He said, *"If you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give good things to them that ask Him."*

There is no father and son relationship, except in Christ. Watch this and listen, *"Having peace with God, we have peace with others."* Even though we are in the flesh there is still peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have peace in the heart and soul with God.

Paul said in Romans 12, *"If it be possible as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."* Make sure and work peaceably, live peaceably and walk peaceably. How can that be done? It can be done if you realize several things: First of all, there is peace with God through Christ and there is peace within.

You are not on the defensive if you are in Christ; you are the son of a King. You have nothing to prove. The battle is not yours it is the Lord's. You have no honor to defend; it is His honor. You have no glory to seek; it is His glory. You have no ambition; you have attained everything you want if you have Christ. You don't have to prove anything.

You don't have to battle anybody. You don't have to strive for position, ambition, objectives or anything else. If you have Christ, you have all things. Paul said, *"I know how to be abased and I know how to abound."* Either way it doesn't make any difference. The Scripture says, *"Being content with what you have and whatsoever state you are in."* You have Christ and there is nothing else to want.

Second: I recognize that God is the first cause of all things in the lives of His people. We need not be angry or upset with men, they are just second causes. God is the first cause.

Even the crucifixion of Christ shows that. You may say, "Those old wicked men crucified Christ." They sure did, but if you had been there, you would have done it too. *"It pleased the Lord to bruise Him."* I'm glad He died. I rejoice that He died. If He had not died, I would not have a Saviour. I thank God for His mercy in Christ.

There is no use in being upset with people and holding grudges against people; they are just doing what people do. They say what people say. They are acting like people act. People have said, done and acted that way ever since people have been on this earth. You are not going to change them. There is no use carrying a grudge, holding ill feelings or fussing and fighting with them; they are all in the good providence of God accomplishing His blessed will. He is the first cause.

Third: I recognize that men are but men. Like me, they are prone to sin. So, God says; *"Be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another as God for Christ's sake forgave you."* How? *"As God for Christ's sake forgave you."* Oh!

God loved me; I must love them. They are no harder to love than I am. God Almighty forgave me; I will forgive them, if I know God. He said, *"If you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive yours."*

God knows that I am frail and that I am dust. He said that, *"He remembereth that we are dust."* Well, so are they. They are just people. If you have knowledge of God and peace with God and peace in your heart, you will have peace with others. You recognize it just like yourself.

You see; *"Those that love most are those to whom most is forgiven."* Those who are the most sympathetic, kind and gentle are those who know that God has been most sympathetic, kind and gentle to them.

I recognize this; I recognize that this old world fades away. Every human relationship is considered in the light of death and eternity. It does not amount to anything anyway. There is not one relationship that you have on this earth that will not be dissolved except that relationship with Christ Jesus. That's exactly right!

There's not a house you have built, a building you have built, an acre you own or anything else that will be retained beyond the day that you breathe your last breath.

Then, it is just between you and God. I will tell you this; we need to look upon these things this way right now. When it all boils down to the fact of the matter, there is nothing but me and God right now.

If I have peace with God and I have peace in my heart then I can handle whatever this world can throw my way; you can too, because it doesn't amount to anything. This world is not worth the snap of your finger or worth fretting over, quarreling over, fussing over, fighting over or dividing over. There is nothing to it! This world is nothing but material rubbish.

Now, peace is found in Christ. It is not found where most people are looking. It is not found in going to church. You will find some temporary peace there at best. The atmosphere of religion will only last as long as you are there. When you have to leave, you have to leave sometime and go out the door and you lose your peace.

Making a profession of religion is not going to bring you peace. Putting on the robe of religion will not give you a new heart. You can come to this old flesh with the robes of religion and still have an evil, wicked, black heart underneath. That is not going to help.

Getting involved in religious activities is not going to bring you peace. We must have peace alone, within, with God before it will affect our activities.

Group therapy is not going to bring you peace. Telling others about your weaknesses is not going to change your nature. The only true peace, lasting peace, genuine peace with God, within and with others is found in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Did you know that?

Here is my conclusion: I have just a few moments left and I am going to bring you a conclusion and I want you to listen, true peace with God is our need. Is that not true? It is my need.

Fourth: True peace with God is not the product of the natural heart. I can't find it, buy it or produce it; it has to be the gift of God. Is that not true?

Fifth: True peace, lasting peace is not found in religion. You find more warfare in religion than anywhere else.

Sixth: Where is true, genuine, everlasting peace found? Listen to the Word of God, Jesus stood in the midst of them and said; *"Peace, My peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid."* John 16:33 says,

“In Me you have peace.” Acts 10:36 “And the disciples preached peace by Jesus Christ who is Lord of all.” Romans 1:7 says, “Grace, mercy and peace be unto you from God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 2:14, “He is our Peace.”

You see; I haven't over simplified it at all; I have just defined it; *“Christ is our Peace.”* Christ is our life. *“When Christ, who is our life shall appear then shall He appear with him in glory.”* He is our hope, *“Christ in you the hope of glory.”* He is our first love. *“If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.”* Also, *“He is our Peace.”*

Our Lord said, *“When you go to a home, say; peace be unto you, and if the Son of Peace be there, then peace is there.”*