

## **THE PEACE OF GOD**

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- A. The world, America, Arkansas, Monticello, the church, you, me all seek peace first and foremost.
  - 1. Blood, Sweat and Tears song, *“And When I Die”*: “...if it’s peace you find in dying, then let the time be near...”
  - 2. Maybe the bigger question, “Can peace be found in living?”
- B. Look at our ways to obtain peace:
  - 1. America claims it only comes from fighting and dying for it.
    - a. Half say “deterrence” gives peace.
    - b. The other half, “disarmament” gives peace.
  - 2. The poor claim money gives peace.
    - a. “If I just don’t have to worry about where my next meal is coming from.”
    - b. Then why are so many “rich” people miserable?
  - 3. Active people seek peace in inactivity: “I can’t wait for my vacation.”
  - 4. Inactive people seek peace in activity: “I just want to feel useful.”
  - 5. “Unloved” people seek peace in “love” – not the giving of it, but receiving it.
- C. Among the most precious gifts the Christian receives from God is “peace of mind”.
  - 1. Luke 2:14, as joy was proclaimed for all men, so to peace.
  - 2. John 14:27; 16:33
    - a. Shalom, a welcome “wishing” peace.
    - b. Jesus gives His peace.
  - 3. Philippians 4:7, 11-13
- D. What are some of the characteristics of the peace of God enjoyed by the Christian?

#### **I. IT IS THE PEACE OF BEING DIVINELY LOVED.**

- A. To be well-adjusted to life, a child must receive love from his parents, creating in him the happy feeling of being wanted.
- B. The Christian, the child of God, enjoys peace because of the love bestowed upon him by his heavenly Father.
  - 1. 1 John 3:1, children of God.
  - 2. Can we even begin to understand what is involved in that love?
  - 3. Romans 8:35-39, no separation.

#### **II. IT IS THE PEACE OF LOVING DIVINELY.**

- A. God’s love for us stimulates us to love our fellow man, 1 John 4:10-11.
- B. It is obvious that the peace of God cannot dwell in hearts where there is bitterness and hatred.
  - 1. 1 John 4:8
  - 2. James 3:13-18, disorder [chaos] in the world.

#### **III. IT IS THE PEACE OF BEING DIVINELY CONTROLLED.**

- A. Life’s discords, primarily result from conflict between the will of man and the will of God.

- B. The Christian has placed his life in the care of God by faith, obedience, and prayer, with peace and harmony being the result.
  - 1. Galatians 6:16 – peace be upon them.
  - 2. Romans 5:1-2, justified brings peace with God.
  - 3. Isaiah 26:3-4
  - 4. Romans 8:6

#### **IV. IT IS THE PEACE OF BEING DIVINELY FORGIVEN.**

- A. Consciousness of sin makes men restless, confused and miserable.
  - 1. Isaiah 48:20-22, no peace for the wicked.
  - 2. Proverbs 28:1
  - 3. Romans 3:10-18, those under sin.
- B. The faithful Christian enjoys in peace the knowledge of God's forgiveness.
  - 1. 1 John 1:6-7, walk in the light.
  - 2. 1 John 3:19-22

#### **CLOSING**

- A. All the attempts ever made by men to gain peace have failed:
  - 1. Pursuit of: fame, pleasure, money, drugs, immorality.
  - 2. Huge armies.
  - 3. Wars, agreements, etc.
- B. Only by coming to God through Jesus Christ can we find enduring peace.
  - 1. Ephesians 2:13-17
  - 2. Only by commitment to Christ.
  - 3. Only in serving others.
- C. It Is Well With My Soul (Songs of Faith and Praise, #490).
  - 1. Verse often omitted in song books:

*Though Satan should buffet, though trial should come,  
 Let this blest assurance control.  
 That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*