

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Peace I Leave With You, Peace I Give To You John 14:27

Everybody is trying to find peace, or in other words everyone is trying to find a sense of well-being. But unfortunately people in general are looking for it in the wrong place. In other words most people are looking for peace, this sense of well-being in the world.

This of course is a futile exercise. It is like a passenger on the Titanic trying to get a sense of well-being by bailing water.

Hopefully this does not describe you. Hopefully you have rather chosen to find your peace, this sense of well-being not in the world but in Christ.

This leads us back to the passage that we will be considering this weekend. It leads us back to the Gospel of John and the farewell of discourse. We are presently looking at the benefits of Christ's departure as He outlined them for His disciples **John 14:25-31**.

So what was the first benefit that He outlined for them? The first benefit of Christ's departure that Christ outlined for His disciples was the Holy Spirit would be sent to them (John 14:25-26). Let me read for you **John 14:25-26 "These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. (26) "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."** What was the first benefit of His departure that Christ outlined for His disciples? The first benefit that Christ outlined was that the Holy Spirit would be sent to them.

This week we will consider the second benefit of Christ's departure. And what is that second benefit. The second benefit of Christ's departure would be that they, after His departure would receive the gift of peace. Let me read for you **John 14:27, "Peace I live with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."** Notice how Christ makes a point of contrasting the peace that He was going to give to them after His departure and the so-called peace that the world seeks to give.

This brings us to the question that we will seek to answer this weekend as we consider this second benefit of Christ's departure. So what is the question that we will be seeking to answer: It is this: What is the difference between how Christ gives peace and how the world gives peace? First of all let us look at what Christ gives?

Christ gives a true peace. Let me read for you **John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you..."** In a way this verse introduces a new subject. In other words there has been no specific reference to peace in Christ's farewell discourse up until this point. But even though this verse may, in a sense be introducing a new topic, it certainly is a topic that flows very naturally from what Christ had just told His disciples about the coming of the Spirit. In other words if Christ did not know for a fact that the Holy Spirit was going to be sent to them by His Father there would have been no way that Christ could have said to them, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you."

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

He could not have said this because it would have been impossible for Him to leave His peace or to give His peace apart from the personal indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Spirit was coming and the Holy Spirit was going to indwell them and therefore He was able to say to them what He said to them.

The word "peace" in biblical times was frequently used in conjunction with other words to greet or to say farewell to someone. The biblical greeting, "Peace to you!" occurs in the Scriptures as a greeting in Luke 10:5; 24:36; John 20:19 and John 20:26 and as a farewell greeting in Ephesians 6:23; 1 Peter 5:14; 3 John 14. Another farewell greeting, "Go in peace" occurs in 1 Samuel 1:17; 20:42; 2 Samuel 15:9; Acts 16:36 and James 2:16.

Though none of the typical expressions of farewell using the word "peace" such as "peace to you" or "go in peace" are found here in **John 14:27** it certainly seems to be His specific intent of Christ's words in light of Christ's imminent departure.

But obviously there is a marked difference in the way that Christ utilized the word "peace" in saying farewell to His disciples in contrast with other Jews and how they might have utilized the word "peace."

So what is that marked difference? The Jews in general when they used the word "peace" in conjunction with a farewell were simply expressing a hope that the person would enjoy peace but certainly they were in no position to leave them peace or to give them peace. But this certainly was not true of Christ.

When Christ expressed His farewell to His disciples He was not hoping they would enjoy peace, He was actually telling them He was going to leave them peace and give them peace.

And how did He describe this peace? Jesus described the peace that He was going to leave and to give His disciples as "My peace." Let us go back and look at the first part of the verse, **"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you."**

So what did Jesus mean when He said that He was going to "leave" His peace and "give" His peace to His disciples? When Jesus told His disciples that He was going to leave His peace and give His peace, He was talking about an objective peace, or in other words a peace with His Father. In other words He was actually going to give them something that He Himself enjoyed and that was in His possession.

But in order for this peace that Christ enjoyed with His Father to be given to His disciples He first of all had to die in order to satisfy the debt of sin they owed and then He also needed to send the Spirit into this world to indwell them. Why?

Dying for their sins at the cross made it possible for Christ to extend certain gifts such as His peace, but it was the coming of the Spirit that actually made it possible for the goods to be delivered.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

So how did the coming of the Spirit make it possible for Jesus to leave His peace and give His peace to His disciples, or in other words the same kind of peace He enjoyed with His Father?

Jesus was able to give His disciples the same kind of peace He enjoyed with His Father because He and His Father would very shortly be spiritually joined to them in the person of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-20).

Let me read for you **John 14:16-20**, "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (18) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (19) After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also. (20) In that day you shall know I am in the Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**" Was this spiritual union that Christ described here and that was made possible by the coming of the indwelling Holy Spirit important in Him being able to leave His peace and to give His peace? Absolutely! It made it possible for Him to actually give them something that He enjoyed and had always enjoyed with the Father.

The Jews in their farewells could only say to their fellow Jews, "Peace to you" or "go in peace" as an expression of hope but Jesus could actually in fact, in His farewell, say to His disciples, "**Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.**" He could say this because it was an objective peace, a peace that He in truth enjoyed with His Father, which He could in fact leave them and give them in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Can people today enjoy this same kind of peace? Absolutely! And how can they do this? They can do this by exercising faith in Christ.

And as soon as they do this what will happen? They will immediately be born again, or in other words they will immediately, through the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit, receive Christ's peace, or in other words the peace that Christ has eternally enjoyed with His Father before the world began.

How long will they enjoy this peace? How long will they enjoy Christ's peace, or in other words the peace that He enjoys with His Father? Those who receive Christ's peace will enjoy His peace as long as they are spiritually joined to the Holy Spirit, or in other words they will enjoy His peace forever. Isn't this what Jesus told His disciples in **John 14:16 "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever."**

If you are here this weekend and know that you in fact have placed your faith in Christ and have been born again then you can know this for a fact. He has given you peace, not just any peace but His peace, the very peace that He has enjoyed before the world began.

And now listen very carefully to me. Knowing that we have been given Christ's peace, or in other words the peace that Christ has enjoyed with His Father, this will inevitably lead to another kind of peace. So what kind of peace would that be?

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Those who receive Christ's peace, or in other words the peace that Christ enjoys with the Father, will inevitably find themselves not only enjoying peace with God but also the peace of God.

Peace with God is objective and is given by Christ to those who exercise with in Him and are saved. The peace of God is subjective and should be the inevitable by-product of our saved condition, or in other words it should be the inevitable by-product of knowing that we in fact through Christ's death and the personal indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit will always enjoy Christ's peace, or in other words, peace with His Father no matter what.

I believe a man named Horatio Spafford, the man who wrote the words to the hymn, "It is well with my soul" illustrates my point.

Horatio and His wife lived in Chicago in the late 19th century. They were a well to do family but what was far more important was the fact that they were believers. But this did not protect them from suffering. They first of all lost a son. Then shortly after that they lost a great deal of their fortune in the Chicago fire. Then two years after that Horatio decided that his family should take a holiday in Europe, and knowing that D.L. Moody, who was a personal friend, was going to be speaking in Europe, arranged the holiday for that time. However He was delayed by business and sent His family on ahead of him: his wife Anna, and his four daughters Tanetta, Maggie, Annie and Bessie.

On November 21, 1873 while crossing the Atlantic their ship was struck by an iron sailing vessel and two hundred and twenty six people lost their lives, including all four of Spafford's daughters. Somehow his wife Anna survived. On arriving in England, she sent a telegram to Horatio with the word "saved alone."

Spafford then himself took a ship to England, going past the place where his daughters had died, while still in the Mid-Atlantic wrote the words of his very famous Hymn entitled, "It is well with my soul." This is a hymn that I believe illustrates very powerfully how a person who is enjoying peace with God can by faith also experience the peace of God even in the midst of the severest trials. Listen to His words.

1. When peace, like a river,
attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to know,
"It is well, it is well with my soul"

Chorus: It is well (it is well)
with my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

2. Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded
my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
(Repeat chorus)

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

3. My sin, oh the bliss
of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross,
and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
(Repeat chorus)

4. And Lord haste the day
when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound,
and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Did Horatio Spafford enjoy Christ's peace, or in other words peace with Christ's Father? Yes, absolutely! And what was the natural by-product of this peace. The natural by-product of this peace was the peace of God, or in other words the subjective feelings of peace even in the midst of the fiercest storms.

This is because he was looking at his immediate circumstances to where those circumstances were leading him. And where were those circumstances leading him? He believed that they were leading him to glory. He believed this because he in fact believed that he was at peace with Christ's Father and that Christ's Father was in fact preparing him for the future blessedness of heaven.

Let me read for you **Romans 8:28-30**, "**And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first born among many brethren; (30) and whom He predestined, these He also called; and whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.**" So what can we conclude from these verses?

Those who enjoy peace with God can enjoy peace even in the midst of trials because they know that through those trials that God is perfecting them and preparing them for glory (Romans 8:28-30). Did Horatio Spafford understand this? Absolutely! When he looked at His trials he only saw them as the necessary stepping stones that God had permitted to come into his life to perfect him and prepare him for glory.

He was able to do this because he, through faith in Christ had received Christ's peace, or in other words peace with Christ's Father and this peace with Christ's Father allowed Him to enjoy not only peace with God but also the peace of God.

When Christ gives peace. He gives a true peace but this is not the case with the world.

The world gives a false peace. Let us continue to read **John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you,"** When Christ gives us His peace He actually gives us something. But this is not true of the world.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The world tries to extend to us the hope of peace through money, fame, friends, power, possessions, and pleasure but at its very core this so-called hope is false. It is only an illusion.

The reason why the peace the world gives is a false peace is because it has no substance and will in time eventually give way to disappointment and despair

But praise God this is not the kind of peace that His disciples were going to receive. They actually were going to receive something, that rather than giving way to disappointment and despair that would actually give way to glory. And because this was the peace that they were going to be left with after He departed and asked the Father to send the Spirit back to them, He told them at the end of John 14:27, "**Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**"

May God give us the grace to turn our backs on the so-called peace that world offers so that we can enter into the fullness of Christ's peace.