

## Peace

Series: Promises of God

John 14:27

September 13, 2020

Welcome again to worship.

There once was a guy, a pretty lonely one in fact, who decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So, he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he decided on a centipede, which came in a little white box to use for its house. He took the centipede home, found a good location for the box, and then decided he would start off by taking his new pet to a restaurant to have dinner.

So, he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to Wendy's with me to have dinner?" But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, "How about going to Wendy's with me?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So, he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time; this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to Wendy's with me to have dinner?"

A little voice came out of the box from the centipede: "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

We are in the next-to-last week of our series, "Promises of God," so I invite you to turn to page 5 in your bulletin. The promises of God are as sure as the dawn of a new day. So far, we have talked about:

- Presence: God will be with you.
- Protection: God will protect you.
- Strength: God will be your strength.
- Answer: God will answer you.
- Provision: God will provide for you.

Today, we will talk about God's peace.

Let me ask you a question. What would you do if you knew you were going to die within 24 hours? Say if you knew that you would die in your sleep tonight, what would you do? Well, you'd stay awake for sure. You'd do everything you could to get yourself checked into a hospital so that when you died, someone could revive you, all the while fretting about it.

But what if you knew that within 24 hours, you were going to die, not a merciful death in your sleep, but a horrible and painful death? I'm certain you would simply be beside yourself.

In the Upper Room, the night before He was crucified, as He was facing death, Jesus said the following in John 14:27:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*<sup>1</sup>

Jesus said some incredible things in His life, but in the context of this one, I can think of only 1, maybe 2, more astonishing.

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<sup>1</sup> John 14:27 (NRSV)

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*<sup>2</sup>

Now, before we get into our outline, let's talk about what Jesus means when He talks about peace.

The Greek word for peace here is *i-ray'-nay*<sup>3</sup>. It means to be in harmony, to be bound, joined, and weaved together with God and with everyone else, and thus in peace. It means to be assured, confident, and secure in the love and care of God. It is a sense, a consciousness, a knowledge that God will provide.<sup>4</sup>

PIANO ILLUSTRATION. 230 STRINGS.

That's the kind peace Jesus is talking about. And as He faced His death, a sacrifice for His disciples and for all of humankind, He tells us 5 things about His peace.

**First, Christ's Peace is Available to you.**

As He was about to be taken away to be crucified, and in a very Jewish form of salutation and benediction, Jesus left to His disciples peace. Their worlds were about to turn upside down, but they did not need to fear it or become distraught over it.

And here's the thing: Jesus left it for them: "Peace I leave with you..." But that weekend, they didn't pick it up. They didn't pick it up.

Think about when you were a kid. If your mom or dad made your lunch and put it in a bag or lunchbox for school, it didn't do any good if you didn't pick it up. You leave something on the counter for someone in your family to pick up and take somewhere, but in order for it to work, they must pick it up.

The disciples didn't pick up Jesus' peace. That's why His first words to them when He appeared on Easter Sunday night were:

*"Peace be with you."*<sup>5</sup>

Christ's peace is there for you, a peace that comes from being in tune; He has left it for you. All you have to do is pick it up.

**Second, Christ's Peace is His Peace.**

*my peace I give to you.*

Three times in this verse we are told that this peace is a gift. We do not merit this peace; it comes by grace.

Have you ever read a passage of Scripture that said Jesus was afraid? Have you ever read a verse in the Bible that said Jesus was uncertain? No, because He had peace. There was a harmony of spirit between Jesus and the Father.

Jesus said in John 16:33:

*I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.*<sup>6</sup>

Study the Scriptures and you will see that Jesus faced many trials. King Herod had tried to kill Him when He was an innocent baby boy. The religious leaders were trying to kill Him from the moment He began His ministry.

He also experienced sorrow.

BEGGAR ON GETTYSBURG AVE.

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<sup>2</sup> John 14:27 (NRSV)

<sup>3</sup> εἰρήνη

<sup>4</sup> Practical Word Studies in The New Testament, "Peace"

<sup>5</sup> John 20:19 (NLT2)

<sup>6</sup> John 16:33 (NLT2)

But Jesus had peace, and He promised to give it to His disciples and to us.

**Third, Christ's Peace is a Unique Peace.**

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.*

This peace from Christ is totally unique. It is not like the peace the world tries to give. Did you know, the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was the bloodiest, costliest century of warfare in human history. Two world wars, and a large number of major revolutions, along with significant social, political, and economic upheavals made the period from 1900 to 2000 of great importance in a historical and military sense. I did some internet searches, and in those 100 years, there were at least 34 major conflicts, including 2 the world wars.

And friends: no one else can give peace as Christ gives it. No one else can promise peace as Christ has. He is "The Prince of Peace."<sup>7</sup> The United Nations cannot give this peace. The Noble Peace Prize winners cannot give this peace. A home security system or a well-funded IRA cannot give this peace. If a politician promises peace, you have to vote for that politician if you want the peace he offers, and it usually fails.

But Jesus Christ's peace is unique. Christ is the key to peace of mind, peace with others, and the most important peace of all, peace with God.

But Paul says in Romans:

*They don't know where to find peace. They have no fear of God at all.*<sup>8</sup>

The world does not want Christ, so the world does not have peace, as we have seen on our televisions for months and months now. Drugs, alcohol, and governments will never produce peace, for they leave out Christ.

We can thank God the peace Jesus gives is not like the world. The world cannot give true peace, heart peace, or lasting peace. But Jesus can. His is unique.

**Fourth, Christ's Peace is Trouble Free.**

Most of you probably don't know that my first wife Julie was a Mary Kay sales director. And in her time as a director, she earned 2 free Mary Kay cars. They weren't the pink Cadillacs, although I told her that if she ever earned a free Cadillac, I would drive it, even if it was pink. No, she earned two free red Pontiac Grand Ams. There is nothing like driving off a car dealer's lot with a free car.

Those cars were 2 of the only 3 brand new cars I have ever owned. And what you expect from a brand-new car or house or washing machine or computer is that they will be trouble free. There shouldn't be anything wrong with them.

Jesus said:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

He said earlier in the chapter:

*Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.*<sup>9</sup>

This is the first practical application of what Christ has said about giving peace. When Christ gives us peace, it will stop troubled hearts. Why? Because we are in harmony with God through Christ.

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<sup>7</sup> Isaiah 9:6

<sup>8</sup> Romans 3:17-18 (NLT2)

<sup>9</sup> John 14:1 (NLT2)

John Wesley said, “How serenely may we pass through the most turbulent scenes of life, when all is quiet and harmonious within! Thou hast made peace through the blood of thy cross.”<sup>10</sup>

Christ’s peace is trouble-free.

**Finally, Christ’s Peace is Fearless.**

Jesus said:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

The Greek word for “afraid” here is the only time it is used in the New Testament. It comes from *deilos* that literally meant “palpitations of the heart.” Aristotle used this word once to describe a person condemned to death.<sup>11</sup>

But Jesus’ peace is fearless. It is not afraid when facing the worst you could ever face.

Jesus told His disciples that this peace will soothe their hearts when the world around them is in turmoil. The peace Jesus gives comes through His defeat of humanity’s greatest foes: sin, death, and Satan. The cosmic battle was about to begin towards the cross, but the outcome was decided long ago. Satan had nothing to bring against Jesus and was defeated. Peace for us came through great violence. Peace with God was delivered when Jesus offered up His life to be brutally slaughtered. A commentator reflected on this great irony:

The pax Romana (peace of Rome) was won and maintained by a brutal sword; not a few Jews thought the Messianic peace would have to be secured by a still mightier sword. Instead, it was secured by an innocent man who suffered and died at the hands of the Romans, of the Jews, and of all of us. And by His death, He effected for His own followers peace with God, and therefore “the peace of God, which passes all understanding.”

That’s the beauty of the Gospel. We have peace because Jesus fought a war. He fought our fight, so we could have His peace.

One of the most popular Christian anthems is also the simplest. It says, “Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

At the height of persecution in Communist China, a Christian sent a message to a friend. The message escaped the attention of the censors, because it said simply: “The ‘this I know’ people are well”—but that phrase, the “this I know people” clearly identified the Christian community in China.<sup>12</sup>

“This I know people.” Our confidence is in the peace of Jesus. It is available to you, it is unique because it is His peace, it is trouble-free, and it is fearless.

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*<sup>13</sup>

For His promise is peace.

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<sup>10</sup> Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament, John 14:27

<sup>11</sup> Word Pictures in the New Testament, John 14:27

<sup>12</sup> Christ-Centered Exposition - Exalting Jesus in John 14:27

<sup>13</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT2)