

Peace I Leave With You

John 14:27

Topic: Peace

Aim: To show that the peace of God is more valuable than the peace of this world.

1. All are glad when the world is basically at peace and saddened and disturbed when war comes.
2. Jesus made a promise to his disciples in John 14:27.
3. Yet the world has seen very few years that there was not some war going on in the world. Just so today.
4. What did Jesus mean by the statement in John 14:27?

I. Look more closely at the statement.

A. Jesus did not promise an absence of conflict and turmoil.

1. Jesus admits that such will continue to exist, even be caused by Him! Matthew 10:34-39.
2. But Jesus qualifies the nature of the peace: "not as the world gives ... my peace."
3. It is a different kind of peace.
 - a. Psalms 4.
 - b. Psalms 85:8-13.

B. Remember the context in which the statement is found, the Upper Room.

1. Much of What Jesus says in the Upper Room can be looked at in terms of this promise.
2. Peace would be found or needed in nearly everything Jesus mentions.
3. Consider:
 - a. 13:1-17, Peace in service.
 - b. 13:31-35, Peace in loving others
 - c. 14:1-6 Peace in what lies ahead.
 - d. 14:12-14, Peace in answered prayer.
 - e. 14:15-23, Peace in the indwelling Spirit.
 - f. 15:1-8, Peace in the Vine.
 - g. 15:9-17, Peace in joy and love.
 - h. 15:18-16:4, Peace in the face of hatred.
 - i. 16:25-31, Peace because Jesus has overcome the world

II. That peace is available to all Christians.

A. Paul speaks of the:

1. God of Peace five times and the peace of God twice. Note particularly Philippians 4:6-9. Note the context of "contentment."
2. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace, Isaiah 9:6.
3. He still willingly gives the peace that we all seek.

B. And we must note that the peace of God is given and can be ours in the midst of the war with Satan!

1. If we lose the battle to Satan, we lose the peace.
2. "Five great enemies to peace: greed, ambition, envy, anger, and pride." Petrarch (1304-1374).
3. Jill Briscoe recalled a conversation he had with a girl who attended church with her: She said, "Jill, I've lost my joy, I've lost my peace, and I want it back."
"Where did you lose it?" I asked
"That has nothing to do with this," she replied. "Help me to get it back."
"But where did you lose it?"
"I don't want to talk about that."
But eventually she did talk about it. She lost it when she moved in with her boyfriend. That'll do it. -- Jill Briscoe, "Hanging Up Our Faith," Preaching Today, Tape No. 148.

III. I regret that our nation is not free from war.

A. I acknowledge the irony of the need for a strong fighting force to keep us at peace.

1. But I also must acknowledge that as precious as that peace is, the peace of God is more so.
2. John 14:27.

B. That peace is found only in a life given over to the Lordship of Christ.

1. A friend visited an elderly woman badly crippled by arthritis. When asked, "Do you suffer much?" she responded, "Yes, but there is no nail here," and she pointed to her hand. "He had the nails, I have the peace." She pointed to her head. "There are no thorns here. He had the thorns, I have the peace." She touched her side. "There is no spear here. He had the spear, I have the peace." That is what the atonement of Jesus Christ means for us--He gave of himself so that we might have the peace. -- Ralph Turnbull, If I Only Had One Sermon to Preach

2. John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) wrote the word to that old familiar hymn:

Drop thy still dews of quietness, Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

1. Is your soul at peace?
2. It can be, if you are at peace with God.
3. John 14:27.

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