

When Living Means Christ, We Have Peace - Philippians 4:7-9

Peace is one of the great recurring themes of the Bible—it is mentioned over 400 times! Like joy, it is to be one of the primary characteristics of kingdom life (Ro 14:17). And also like joy, it has very little to do with the “externals” of life. God’s peace is not like the world’s peace (Jo 14:27) which is fading or temporary at best (false and deadly at worst). It is not for those who will settle for the world’s peace. It is a supernatural, incomprehensible gift from God, a fruit of the spirit (Ga 5:22), a Divine doing in a human being. It is not found in the absence of conflict but in the Presence of a Person - “in Me you may have peace” (Jo 16:33). Only when the “God of peace is with us do we experience the “peace of God.”

Because of Christ, living means we can have **PEACE WITH GOD** (Ro 5:1,11). When we receive the righteousness of God - the righteousness that comes from God, belongs to God and is approved by God - then God and I are “all right”. No amount of human currency can purchase this righteousness. It (really “He”) can only be freely received by grace through faith. We “become” what we receive (see II Cor 5:21) and now that there is no longer anything between God and us - we have peace with God.

When living means Christ, we also have the **PEACE OF GOD** (Phil 4:7; Col 3:15). As we yield to the Way, the Truth, the Life of the One abiding in us His sense of peace upon us reigns and rules to guide and guard us through life’s confusion and chaos. This peace is not only the fearlessness of an indivisible union with God (Ro 8:35-39), it is also the assurance of knowing that since God and I are “all right”, all that comes to me is “right”.

Two wonderful by-products of this great peace come as we abide in the God of all Peace. We discover and live in a PEACE WITH OURSELVES (Ro 15:7). With no anxious need to prove ourselves, no neurotic need to repair ourselves, no fearful need to project a self that imperfect others might hopefully approve, we learn to gratefully receive and humbly (but confidently) live in our new creation selves. We stop rejecting what God has received, stop hating what God loves, stop condemning what God has already justified. We accept God’s acceptance of us in Christ. Secondly, we discover we can live at PEACE WITH OTHERS (Ro 12:14; Heb 12:14; II Cor 5:18-20). Such a precious and priceless gift can never be kept to ourselves! We, like the angelic host, “glorify God in the highest” as we offer “peace on earth, good will to men” on earth. We accept the call to reconciliation and peacemaking since the God of reconciliation and peace now resides in us. We freely give what has been freely given to us!



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GREETINGS

One of the "perks" of doing what I do in this ministry is the opportunity to "taste and see that the Lord is good" in so many different "flavors". Experiencing 15-20 different venues each year yields an appreciation for both "home cooking" and the wide variety of dishes that are out there.

Some are more like "fast food", some more like formal dinners. Some are served cafeteria style, others serve up one-plate specials. Some meals are sharp and spicy while others are rather mild and tame. Some go down like home-made ice cream on a hot August day while others must be thoroughly chewed and carefully swallowed.

The point? As long as Jesus Christ is the "main dish" we will be nourished, strengthened and sustained. Not everyone likes (or tolerates well) spicy food, while many tire quickly of the same "bland" flavors. As long as the food is healthful and sufficient, our bodies will grow. Praise God for the "variety", don't judge others by your own "taste buds", and make sure no matter how it is prepared, that Jesus Christ is always the main dish.



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

7, 21	CCF
9	Alachua Study
13-20	Bozeman, MT
25-28	Binghamton, NY (607-625-4612)
30	Ocala Study

OCTOBER

18-22	Tyler, TX (903-561-9995)
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♥ PRAISE and PRAYER ✝



The peace of God



The diversity of the Body of Christ



CCF pastor search



For Jesus to always be the "main dish"