

Studies in I Peter (10)

The Apostolic Prayer -- the Multiplication of Grace and Peace(2)

Introduction

- A. In a time of trial -- it is usually our peace that we lose first.
- B. The people to whom Peter was writing were in need of multiplied peace for they were going through a period of unusual testing.
 - 1. As believers they were strangers and pilgrims living among those who were members of this world system. I Peter 1:1; 2:11
 - 2. They were being treated as unwanted aliens and suffering for their relationship with Jesus Christ. I Peter 2:12-25
- C. Peace is much more than a state of emotional calmness. It is primarily a spiritual sense of well-being, a rest of faith, a spiritual understanding of being right with God, it is a calmness of heart that grows out of fellowship with God.

I. The Explanation Regarding Peace.

- A. The twofold distinction concerning peace.
 - 1. The peace with God -- the peace of salvation.

Therefore being justified (declared righteous) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Comment: It must be understood that peace is first of all based upon a relationship -- not an emotion. The peace of salvation is the spiritual awareness of forgiveness by God, of His acceptance, and the realization that we are no longer under condemnation.

- 2. The peace of God -- the peace of fellowship.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6,7 NIV

Comment: The peace of God has the same foundation as peace with God. However, it grows out of the experience of obedience and of fellowship with God. It is much more experiential and much more powerful than peace with God. The peace of God is one of the first great losses we bring into our lives through disobedience. When we persist in disobedience we become so calloused and deceived we fail to perceive our loss!

B. The meaning of peace as the Fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace Galatians 5:22

Comment: The Holy Spirit works in the Christian to enable us to understand and experience peace. This is one reason why doubt, anxiety, worry, and covetousness should not characterize our lives.

II. The Instruction Regarding Peace.

A. Peace has been provided in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

For he (the Lord Jesus) is our peace ... having abolished in his flesh the enmity ... so making peace. And that he might reconcile ... by the cross ... and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. Ephesians 2:14-17

Comment: Our sinfulness was so serious that only the Lord Jesus could pay our debt and set us free. He bore the penalty of our condemnation so we could have His peace.

B. Peace is experienced through spiritual growth.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6

Comment: In order to know peace as the Fruit of the Spirit in our daily life -- we must walk in fellowship with God. The key is found in honest and practical obedience to God through His Word.

III. The Application Concerning Peace.

*Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
And let the peace of God rule in your hearts ... Colossians 3:14*

Comment: Two areas are specified in these verses where we must learn to obey God -- that of our relationship with our brethren and our hearts. We may not allow any division or sin to enter into our relationship with another person. This means we must not hold grudges, nor sinfully criticize, nor gossip. Most believers have lost their peace of God in this very area.

The peace of God is to "rule" our hearts. The Greek word means "to act as umpire." We must learn to refuse everything that would cause us to lose our peace.

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