

The Practicality of Redemption (4)

Spiritual Peace

Introduction

- A. One of the great truths of Christianity is that God is the God of Truth, that He has spoken truth to use in His Word, and that truth can be the very foundation of our life. Matthew 7:24-29
- B. The benefit of having a foundation of divine truth -- is spiritual peace. The term speaks to us of "rest," "calmness," "repose," "completeness," "wholeness," and "well-being." The value of peace cannot be measured.
- C. One of the important contrasts in the Bible is that the Christian knows peace -- and the non-Christian is without it. Isaiah 57:21

I. The Basis for Spiritual Peace: The Character of God.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect (equipped) in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20,21

Comment: It is significant that our Lord has given Himself the name "God of Peace." This title is found in the New Testament 7 times. These passages refer not only to His desire for us, His provision for us in Christ, but particularly to His character. It is the quality of His character -- His attributes -- that is the taproot of the believer's peace.

God is holy -- righteous in all His ways.
God is love -- His kindness is unconditional.
God is truth -- His promises cannot fail.
God is good -- what He does is goodness.

Summary: Because of who God is -- His character -- He can be trusted.

II. The Source of Spiritual Peace: The Work of Jesus Christ.

That at the time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath... abolished in his flesh the enmity ... so making peace. Ephesians 2:12-15

Comment: That which stood between God and ourselves -- our sin and all its guilt and depravity -- Jesus Christ took upon Himself. He bore our alienation, suffered under our penalty, died our death, defeated Satan our enemy, and reconciled us to God. In the new birth all the benefits of His work were given to us -- we are at peace with God.

III. The Gift of Spiritual Peace: Salvation by Grace Through Faith.

A. The gift of peace is given by Jesus Christ.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27

Comment: In His final meeting with the disciples, hours before the agony of the Crucifixion -- the Lord Jesus gave them His peace. Some important truths were taught by these words.

1. True peace is found in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. The Lord Jesus could say "My peace: in that He was going to die to establish that peace.
3. His peace is not like the empty words of the world -- His gift of peace has substance -- it produces a transformation of life.
4. The results of His peace is deliverance from being "troubled," and being "afraid."

B. The gift of peace is received by faith.

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

Comment: True peace with God cannot be earned. In spite of what all the false religions of the world teach -- salvation (justification) is receiving by faith -- and not works. Because peace is a spiritual reality, the evidence that we possess that gift -- is found in our faith.

IV. The Experience of Spiritual Peace: Living According to Truth.

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 minds in Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:6,7 NIV

Comment: How strange these verses would sound if one did not understand their Biblical context. The believer has a foundation in truth which makes the message of this passage instructive and comforting.

1. We know God can be trusted.
2. We know God's Word is truth and can be trusted.
3. We know God's provision in Jesus Christ is ours by faith.
4. We know the practice of this passage brings comforting peace.

Summary: All of us must confess there have been times in our life when we did not live in harmony with God's truth. It was during such a time that we lacked the experience of peace.

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