

Further reflections on Colossians 3 Series Messages

Message #10 “The Greatest Umpire”

Day One – Review notes day

I will hear what God the LORD will say; For He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. Indeed, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce. Righteousness will go before Him and will make His footsteps into a way. Psalm 85:8-13

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

This is review notes day. As usual read through the notes and jot down any “nudges” from the Lord. Any new insights that come to mind? Jot them down. Any questions? Jot them down and pray that God will make it clear as you dig deeper this week.

I apologize for the brevity of this guide as I was resting at home most of the week. Since last week’s guide was late, it might give you extra time to catch up.

Day Two – Living the Good life

Read chapter 3 & 4 of Colossians and see if you can identify the instructions for the good life. I tried to isolate them in the notes. This will help you tie in the flow of the whole chapter.

I gave you two place grace and peace are linked together, here are some more to look up. As you review them, make any observations about grace and peace that jumps out at you. i.e. Grace and peace come from God and Jesus.

to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 1:7

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. Romans 16:20

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, Galatians 1:3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. Colossians 1:2

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 1 Thessalonians 1:1

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:2

To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 1 Tim 1:2

To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 2 Timothy 1:2

To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. Titus 1:4

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philemon 1:3

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. 1 Peter 1:2

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 2 Peter 1:2

Grace, mercy and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 2 John 1:3

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, Revelation 1:4

Do you think that these amazing truths would be important?

In this context, Paul actually is pronouncing blessing on his readers. It is almost like a prayer.

Lack of peace among people is the result of the passions still embedded in our members (brain, physiological system.) Take some time today to reflect on James conclusion about conflicts among us. James 3-4

Finally, review the proposed definition of peace.

Definition of Peace

Peace is the calm inner confidence resulting from a resounding realization that God is powerfully at work in me and through me and promises to work EVERYTHING together for His glory and my good.

Day Three – Passages on peace

Following are some passages that expand on the concept of peace. Take some time to contemplate them.

God instructs us to live in peace.

"Salt is good; but if the salt becomes unsalty, with what will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." **Mark 9:50**

Yet if the unbelieving one (spouse) leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace. **1 Cor. 7:15**

Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. **2 Cor. 13:11**

Live in peace with one another. **1 Thes. 5:13**

God calls us to encourage others to live in peace.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." **Matthew 5:9**

God urges us to pursue whatever encourages peace and builds up believers.

So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. **Rom 14:19**

Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. **2 Tim. 2:22**

Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. **Heb 12:14**

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, **2 Peter 3:14-15**

God urges us to preserve unity in the bond of peace

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **Ephes. 4:1-3**

God commands us to allow the Peace of Christ to rule our hearts

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. **Col. 3:15**

Reciprocal relational peace is not always possible

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Romans 12:18

Day Four & Five – The source of Peace

For the next two days spend them on the passages related to the source of peace listed in the notes.

Take your time. Let the truths reshape your thinking.

If you have time, read John 13-16 and identified the things Jesus said that would contribute to peace.

Remember that it is our thinking that dictates our feeling. Jesus said His were intended to give them peace. Make a list of things He taught that would have facilitate peace in spite of the things that were about to envelop them.

Think about how Jesus experience peace in His time on earth.

Hunger, temptation, lack of faith in the followers, demonic harassment, upset people, threats on his life, sinful people, adverse circumstances, difficult and seemingly impossible tasks, pain, fatigue, tons to do, needy people, demanding people, hungry people, hostile people, uncertain future, painful future – Jesus met all of these things with a confident calmness and assurance in the eternal purposes of God that enabled him to focus on the eternal purpose of the moment rather than the pain of the moment.

Hebrews informs us that for the joy set before him (the culmination of the eternal purposes of God) Jesus willingly endured the cross. Assured of who He was and obediently operating according to the direction and power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus lived with nothing to prove, nothing to lose. He could willingly face every day knowing his soul was in the loving hands of the father. Jesus thus lived His whole life on earth in peace. It doesn't mean He didn't hurt or grieve or feel life's pain or experience deep sorrow over the actions or non-actions of people. It doesn't mean that He didn't even experience deep anguish in the soul at the prospect of future alienation from the father because of the sins of the world.

It was His calm confidence in the father's eternal purpose and unchangeable love that enabled Him to continually entrust His very soul into the Father's hands and temporarily waive his personal pleasure and comfort for a higher purpose; the will of the Father. And Jesus granted this calm confidence to all who trust in Him.

PEACE WITH GOD

Romans makes it very clear that having been justified by faith, we HAVE peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the fall man is born in enmity. Sin drives a wedge between us and a Holy God. There cannot be peace.

Romans indicates that there is a hostility and an inability to please God. Yet within every heart is a longing to relate to God. Without a peace with God there cannot be lasting peace with people or life.

Peace with God is the foundation of all peace. It is the realization that in spite of all I have done or haven't done, because of Christ, the purposes of God are being accomplished in my life and I have been eternally restored to genuine fellowship with a Holy God.

No peace with God...

- No peace with others
- No peace with ourselves
- No peace in life

PEACE WITH OURSELVES

If only I did better.

If only I could do what others do.

If only I didn't have ...

I am so unworthy.

I am so clumsy.

I am so disorganized.

If only a had done a better job parenting.

These are all the result of seeking to arbitrate our own soul. When we learn to rest in the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit as did Jesus, the struggle to be something God didn't ask me to do or that I can never be disappears.

Remember, it is the resounding realization that God is at work both to will and to do His good pleasure that enables us the inner calm confidence that characterizes a usable vessel. If I am continually introspecting and looking for flaws, I will find them. I will never be satisfied with anything I do. It can always be done better. When I realize that It is God at work and it is God who will bring about His purposes. It is the perfect work of Christ that restores life. I can rest in Him that He will continually transform my flawed and seemingly insignificant offering into something usable in His kingdom.

Remember it is **God** at work within you both do and to will His good pleasure.

PEACE IN CIRCUMSTANCES

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

This is a difficult area. We live in a world that defies control. Everyone wants to control the people and events in their world and no one can. There are many mysteries we do not understand. We live in a fallen world that staggers from the consequences of living outside of relationship with God for generation after generation. As a result we experience sickness, abuse, evil, disease, relational trauma that defies our control. We try to discover grand formulas that guarantee results. We reduce the truths and mysteries of God's revelation to understandable boxes and manageable formulas that will control our own life and those around us. If you will follow these five steps you are guaranteed pain free living.

It just doesn't work that way. People die. Disease strikes. Rain falls. Disaster descends.

Christ's peace transcends all circumstances. It comes from the calm confidence in the goodness of God who works all things for his glorious purpose and our ultimate perfection.