

Reading: John 14:1-3,27

Topic: Finding Peace In
A Difficult Time

INTRODUCTION: Everyone desires to have _____ in life – no one likes trouble, problems and upheavals that turn our world upside _____ but how does one find peace in those times?

I. WHAT IS PEACE?

A. Quietness & Rest

1. The word 'peace' is in the Word of God 429 times and it has _____ connotations, but the most commonly understood sense of the word is:

- In the Old _____ Hebrew language the word most used for peace is 'shalom' which means, "to be well."
- In the New _____ Greek language, the word most used for peace is 'eirene' which means "to be at rest" or "quietness."

B. Not The Absence of Trouble:

- We often think that true _____ is the absence of trouble, problems and difficulties, but that is not what the Word of God teaches us about _____.
- In the story of the Shunamite woman in the days of Elisha, her only _____ had just died unexpectedly and she gets on a donkey and rides in a hurry to _____ the man of God. Notice her words:
 - To her husband – "It shall be _____." 2 Kings 4:23,24 (The word well here in Hebrew is "shalom")
 - To Gehazi, the servant of Elisha – It is _____. 2 Kings 4:25,26 (Again the word well is 'shalom')
- We are familiar with an old hymn – "It is _____ With My Soul" but there is a story behind that song that most people are unaware of:
 - It was written by a man named Horatio G. Spafford who experienced great _____ in his life.
 - His _____ died unexpectedly of an illness, and then the great Chicago _____ happened and he lost most of his real estate investments and on top of those two great trials, his four daughters were on board a ship that was caught in a violent storm and it _____ carrying them to their deaths.
 - How could an individual write such a song saying "It is well with my soul," after suffering such _____ trials? It was because He was rooted in his _____ and trust in God.

II. THE TRUE SOURCE OF PEACE:

A. Not The World:

- Jesus stated that the world does give some _____ but it is not true _____ that people really need – instead the world offers alcohol, drugs, medications and carnal meditations. Jn. 14:27
- People also try to find _____ in the world by retreating to a quiet place in some wilderness or by taking a vacation in some remote _____ where there is quietness. (doesn't bring inner peace)

B. The Peace of Jesus:

- Jesus taught His disciples about _____ in two chapters of John – 14 and 16 and in both of those He was also teaching about the _____ of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. John 14:25-27
- Jesus did not promise a life without any _____ or difficulties, but He did tell His disciples that they

- would have the true source of _____ and that they would find it in Him. John 16:33
3. Jesus emphasized the importance of _____ several times after His death, burial and resurrection, and spoke _____ unto His disciples. John 20:19-21, 26

III. APPROPRIATING GOD'S PEACE TO OUR LIVES:

A. It Is Available:

1. God is not a respecter of persons, so the availability of His _____ is for everyone who will receive it and it comes through the _____ of the Holy Ghost. Romans 14:17
2. When we become full of the Spirit of God which is the Comforter that _____ taught about, and then He revealed that the Comforter was He Himself, then we have the _____ of Peace inside of us. Is. 9:6

B. Getting & Keeping the Peace:

1. Even though we are children of God, there are times when things in our lives become _____ and we can tend to forget that we have a _____ of peace to help us get through it.
2. There are things that can be done to help us to retain the _____ of God even in trying times:
 - a. Get our _____ and thoughts focused on Jesus. Is. 26:3
 - b. Crank up our _____ life – more prayer = more _____. Phil. 4:6,7
 - c. Listen to good wholesome _____ music and even _____ along with it. I Sam. 16:14-16,23
 - d. Live a _____ that is pleasing to God. Ps. 37:37
 - e. Read and absorb the _____ of God into your life and it will bring _____ peace. Ps. 119:165

CONCLUSION: The world is going through times of _____ and many people are uneasy, fearful and uncertain about the _____ but we the children of God have a _____ of peace that will sustain us and give us confidence to face whatever comes our way. Rom. 15:13