



Grove Ridge Baptist Church

Life can be challenging, but God is always good!

We often hear people say they would like a little “peace and quiet.” I think we can all say a hearty “amen” to that, especially with all that is taking place in our world right now. Yet, I wanted to take a few moments to encourage you today on this thought of “peace.”

At times, we have wrongly concluded that peace is simply the absence of conflict of any kind, yet we forget that Jesus came into a world that was filled with political and moral turmoil. Yet, He was, and IS the Prince of Peace!

As Jesus walked the dusty roads, followed by his disciples, everywhere he went benefitted from the peace he brought into the situation.

Political and religious leaders may have struggled with having a sense of peace because He came to restore hope and dignity to society's downtrodden and forgotten. As He did this, the religious leaders felt their control of the people slipping away.

Yet, all this time, Jesus knew a day would come that He would be taken out of this world, and His mission would be left in the hands of the disciples

He gave some comforting words to them at the time, and I believe these words still apply to us today. John 14:27 (NKJV) 27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The peace that the world gives is temporary and governed by the events surrounding us, yet the peace the Lord gives is one that comes from our innermost being because of His presence.

Here is a beautiful story that illustrates the kind of peace Christ gives:

Two painters were asked to paint a picture illustrating peace. The first painted a beautiful evening scene in the foreground of a lake, it's surface calm and unruffled. Trees surrounded it; meadows stretched away to the distant cattle gently browsing; a little cottage, the setting sun—all spoke of perfect rest. The second painter drew a wild, stormy scene. Heavy black clouds hung overhead; in the center of the picture, an immense waterfall poured forth vast volumes of water covered with foam. One could almost hear its unceasing roar, yet perhaps the first thing to strike the eye was a small bird, perched in a cleft of a huge rock, absolutely sheltered from all danger, pouring forth its sweet notes of joy. It is the second painter who could describe the peace that passes all understanding, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God in the heart of the redeemed. One can only have peace with himself if he has peace with God.

Remember that the circumstances around you should not dictate your peace. HE is our peace!

Blessings in Christ,