

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

1.28.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

Peace, Be Still

## Mark 4: 35 – 41

Why does mankind struggle to experience the peace and abundant life that God has planned for us to have? For God created us in his image to have eternal life with him.

**Genesis 5: 1 – 2,....**in the day that God created man, in the likeness of God....male and female created he them, and blessed them....

Since, we were created in the image and likeness of God, why at times does he seem unreachable? If the Holy Spirit is not active within the hearts of mankind, it is impossible to experience the presence of God. This means that for those, who have not yet by faith believing accepted the saving grace of Jesus Christ, they will not be able to experience the presence of God in their life, for the Holy Spirit does not yet dwell within them. They will, however, experience the convicting power of the Holy Spirit which can lead to salvation.

**John 17: 7 – 11,....**I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away, for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you....when he is come, he will reprove the world....of sin, because they believe not on me....

Now, where does this leave the believer, for the believer has the Holy Spirit already dwelling within them. Are there times in our lives that God seems unreachable? Sure, there is, and it is for the same reason. When we choose to ignore the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are not allowing his influence, which is needed, to lead us toward the truth of God's word. The Holy Spirit works within the lives of the believers so that we might experience Gods will, and his inner peace.

**Mark 4: 35 – 41,....**he saith unto them, let us pass over unto the other side....there arose a great storm of wind....they awake him, and say unto him....carest thou not that we perish?....he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, peace be still....he said....why are you so fearful?....how is it that ye have no faith?....

As we mature spiritually it will help us to understand that Gods authority extends to any and all circumstances that we will ever encounter in our life. Now, this does not mean that he will deliver us from every circumstance, but it does mean that he will control every circumstance, and make all things right, if we put our faith and trust in him. We must remember that when Christ says: let us, that in whatever it is that is happening in our life, we are not alone, and therefore, we should know that we are going to make it through. Once we come to realize that Gods authority covers every circumstance that we will ever face, it is then that we will be able to utilize these circumstances, not only for our own spiritual stability, but also to earn the trust of those who God is allowing us to be an example to.

**Philippians 4: 7,....**and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus....

For the believer, who places their complete faith and trust in Christ, will have the confidence, that in every situation and circumstance, they will possess an inner peace that will dominate their life, and for this we are thankful. But do we truly comprehend a peace which passes all understanding. To those who are in worldly turmoil and still retain a godly peace of mind, a peace which passes all understanding is a great mystery, a mystery that can only be made known unto us from being in a right relationship with God. This is because worldly peace depends upon circumstances that are favorable unto us, so when things are not going our way, then our peace of mind goes away. But Christ made available unto us a distinction between the temporary favorable circumstances of the world, and the lasting eternal peace which he provides, so that we may better understand peace, be still.

**John 14: 27,.....**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....

Spiritual peace that Christ offers through salvation to those who believe is a permanent gift. So, why at times do we not experience this permanent gift that indwells within us? To answer this question, we must first understand why God gives unto us this permanent gift. Christ knows that our earthly journey will not be easy. There will always be many trials, tribulations, and sorrows awaiting us in what lies ahead, therefore, he instilled within each believer the assurance that there may always be inner peace, because he has overcome the sinful, wicked, worldliness that distracts us from our peace of mind. Therefore, it is our own desires that hinder us from experiencing this permanent gift that God has instilled within us through his saving grace.

**James 1: 14 – 15,....**everyman is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death....

God will never tempt a man to sin, for God hates sin, but God will often use temptation to test our faith, our patience, and our perseverance. Temptation to sin must never be seen as sin, for Christ himself was tempted and never sinned. This means that we too can be tempted, and we can choose not to yield to that temptation.

Temptation comes through the old sin nature with its worldly desires, and if we allow them, these temptations will lure us away from that which is godly and good, which entices us into sin. Now, we can either resist the temptation by walking in spirit and in the truth of our life in Christ, or we can yield unto it and allow it to draw us away from the truth of Gods word, where our disobedience will give way to sin, and sin brings forth spiritual death, for sin separates us from God, because sin interrupts our relationship with God.

**2 Corinthians 10: 5,....**casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ....

The world is a sinful place, and no amount of preaching or teaching will bring about the conviction of sin and disobedience unless the Holy Spirit is at work within us, because it is the Holy Spirits job to convict us, and it is up to us to listen to the Holy Spirit. There is a righteous standard that we are held to, and Christ is that standard. This righteousness that the world denies is demonstrated by God, through the love of his Son, Christ, and everything that was said and done is recorded for an example unto us through his word.

So, what does the command peace, be still mean to us today? It means, stop worrying, and use the convicting power of the Holy Spirit to help in overcoming those worldly emotions, such as anxiety, stress, fear, anger, and impatience. There will always be worldly storms surrounding us in our life, we must learn that instead of focusing on the situations and circumstances surrounding us, which we cannot change, let us focus on allowing Christ, through the Holy Spirit, to use that which is already instilled within us, to give unto us that inner peace that he wants us to have. We have the authority of Christ within to command, peace be still, and there will be great calm.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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