

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

January 13, 2019

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

The Peace of God

Victor M. Eskew

We live in a turbulent world. We seem to be in war or on the brink of war at all times. Terror rocks the streets of major cities throughout the world. Cities are filled with violence. Hundreds of murders are committed every day in the United States of America. Racial divide continues to fragment our society. There is very little trust between different cultures. What is not said publicly is said privately. Our homes have also been afflicted with turmoil. Husbands and wives fight and argue and divorce. Parents and children are often at odds with each other. In addition, we can find conflicts within the church where we attend. Power struggles, harsh words, dishonesty, evil speaking, gossip, and division are common place.

In the midst of the chaos and difficulty and conflict, the one thing individuals desire is peace. Peace is defined as “tranquility.” It involves a quietness of mind. It involves freedom from agitation and war. Peace is captured when watching the sun rise over the mountains to shine its first rays upon a hazy valley. Peace is pictured as the sun sets below the far away horizon of the ocean after a long summer’s day. Peace involves a calm. Where there is peace, all is at rest. Where can such peace be found? Fortunately for us, God is the God of peace (I Thess. 5:23).

God wants man to have peace. Thus, He sent the “Prince of peace” (Isa. 9:6) into the world. On the day that the baby Jesus was born, the angels announced peace upon the earth. “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:13-14). Jesus left peace with His disciples before He left the earth. In the upper room, He said: “Peace I leave with you, my peace give I 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). One of the purposes of Jesus’ death was to bring peace between God and man. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace where-in we stand, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God” (Rom. 5:1-2). And again: “And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven” (Col. 1:20). His death also enabled peace to exist between all those who have been estranged in the world. “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in (continued on page 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 1/6/18

Contribution – \$2185

Attendance:

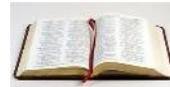
Sunday Bible Classes – 30

Sunday Worship* – 43

Wednesday Night – 39

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: Lest he should be castaway (1 Cor. 9:27).

Q: Who was the spiritual Rock that provided the Israelites drink?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM - Desiring Growth (1 Pet. 2:1-12)

- 1) Newborn babes are to desire what?
- 2) Our good works are to influence people to do what (verse 12)?

PM - Godly Submission (1 Pet. 2:13-25)

- 1) Name at least three examples of godly submission shown in this passage.
- 2) To Whom and to what did Christ submit Himself?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconofcfc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

Missions Supported

Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYER

Margie Tippen — Regina Simmons — Wanda Hendrix — Marcia Green — Jerry Tippen — Ruby Weaver — Wendy Traweek — Tim Green — Harold Myers — Joy Skipper — John & Ruth Coston — Stetson Ortega — Lacey & Ryan Smith, as the birth of their baby (Parker Ryan) is drawing near — Lindy Brown — Kaitlyn Wilson — Kathy Lawrence — Delton Spillers

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Please note that Chase has posted a new memory verse list for the year 2019.
- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every fourth Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted.
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers (If you would like to help with or host a get-together, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh” (Eph. 2:14-17). The gospel is the good news of peace (Rom. 10:15). Those who walk by “this rule” will enjoy peace (Gal 6:16). The kingdom to which the Lord adds us upon our baptism into Christ (Acts 2:47; I Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:13) is “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 14:17). Too, our prayer life provides us a peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:6-7).

This peace does not exempt us from the trials and storms of life. However, in the middle of them, we can continue to live in peace. When the psalmist had enemies rising up against him, he said: “I cried unto the Lord with my voice...” (Ps. 3:4). The Lord heard his prayer and God’s peace encircled him. “I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten- thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about” (Ps. 3:5-6). Jesus had God’s peace with him. In the midst of a violent storm, “...he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow” (Mark 4:38). We, too, can exhibit this same type of peace when the storms rage in our lives. Here’s how it is obtained. “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:6-7).

This peace that God blesses us with can never be taken from us. The forces of nature cannot take it because we know that God is in control. The threats of man cannot because God is greater and more powerful than any man. The difficulties and hardships of life cannot because we know that our God is always with us to deliver us. Our weaknesses and frailties will not remove God’s peace from us, because the one who is in us is greater than our doubts and fears and can do more than we ask or think.

The peace of God is a wonderful blessing. We need to constantly desire this peace for our lives and for the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. In many of Paul’s letters to the churches and to younger ministers, he desires God’s peace upon them. In Ephesians 6:23, he exclaims: “Peace be to the brethren...” To the saints in Philippi, he wrote: “Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:2). To Timothy, he penned these words: “Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord” (I Tim. 1:2). Peace,

that inner calm, is worth more than all the riches of the world.

We will conclude with two verses from Paul’s letter to the Romans. “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost” (Rom. 15:13). The second is found in the same chapter. It is a wish. It is a wish that we have for all of our readers. “Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen” (Rom. 15:33).

An Example of Suffering
Chase Green

In 1 Pet. 2:21, we read, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.” In John 13:15, Jesus said, “For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”

Jesus suffered many things in this life. He faced ridicule, ostracization, temptations, and physical pain. Peter says that He suffered these things “**FOR US.**” He didn’t do it for His own glory. He did it so that through Him we might be saved.

Question: When we go through various struggles of life, do we consider it an opportunity to glorify God? Peter said that this is exactly such an opportunity: “For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when **ye do well**, and suffer for it, **ye take it patiently**, this is **acceptable with God**” (1 Pet. 2:20, emphasis mine).

When people around us see Christians going through various trials and temptations, yet through it all still able to express love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control, God gets the glory! Their attention is turned towards God, hopefully so much so that they too want to be saved.

We must remember that if Jesus experienced difficulties in life, so must we. Jesus reminded His disciples in John 15:20: “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”

If men persecute us, then let’s give God the glory! If they heed our words, then let’s give God the glory! But whatever the case, let us be willing to suffer for the cause of Christ, reminding ourselves that it is not about pleasing ourselves, but about pleasing Him!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

“And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female.”

Matt. 19:4

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