

# “Gospel of John: The Gift of Peace”

Dr. Geoffrey Plummer  
Calvary Baptist Church

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## Scripture

### John 14:27-31

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

"You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

"Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

"I will not speak much more with you, **for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.** Get up, let us go from here."

## This Week

We talk about peace

We live in a world looking for peace

Do you have peace in your life?

What is your definition of peace?

Ambrose Bierce's definition of peace -> **“A period of cheating between two periods of fighting”**

Maybe your definition of peace is the absence of conflict or simply being in a quiet place, undisturbed

When you're at peace, what picture comes to mind?

As we get back to the Gospel of John, Jesus is alone with His disciples

They are downcast about His departure

He has sought to reassure them of their future

## Last Time in John

He taught them about the Holy Spirit

What is the Role of the Holy Spirit?

- He is our Helper
- He is how Jesus discloses or reveals Himself to us
- He is our Teacher
- He brings to remembrance everything that Jesus said -> the Bible reference is inside us

Peace can be elusive

Peace can also be a false peace -> You can believe that things are OK when they are not

Anyone been in a situation where you had an argument with someone, and YOU think it's resolved, but you find out later on, the other person is still angry at you?

It was the case in the Old Testament:

#### **Jeremiah 6:11-14**

**"I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary with holding it in.** "Pour it out on the children in the street and on the gathering of young men together; For both husband and wife shall be taken, The aged and the very old. "Their houses shall be turned over to others, their fields and their wives together; for **I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,"** declares the LORD. "For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and **from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely.** "They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, '**Peace, peace,**' **But there is no peace.**"

The priests and prophets were all saying "Peace"...but it was a false peace because God said there is no peace

#### **Jeremiah 8:10-11**

**"Therefore, I will give their wives to others, their fields to new owners; Because from the least even to the greatest, everyone is greedy for gain; from the prophet even to the priest Everyone practices deceit. "They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, '**Peace, peace,**' **But there is no peace.**"**

Everyone is in it for themselves

#### **Micah 3:5**

**"Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who lead my people astray; When they have something to bite with their teeth, they cry, "**Peace,**" **But against him who puts nothing in their mouths they declare holy war.**"**

Isaiah records it succinctly:

#### **Isaiah 48:22**

**"There is no peace for the wicked,"** says the LORD."

Paul spoke about this in the New Testament:

#### **Romans 3:10-18**

**"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; **for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;** as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; **THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;** ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE. THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING, THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS"; "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS"; "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD, DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS, AND **THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN. THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."**"**

A very sad state for Paul's audience – we're ALL guilty

You think that you have peace with God on your own?

You think that your self-evaluation of how good you are is going to get you to Heaven?

**You are sadly mistaken**

No one seeks God on their own choice

Only through the Holy Spirit can we truly seek God

### **A World without Peace**

What about today in our modern world?

**Do you think our world is at peace?**

**Do you think our preachers and televangelists are warning us of the dire straits that we are in without Christ?**

Or are they saying "Peace, Peace" when there is no peace?

Jesus knew that the disciples were going into a new ministry

There will be some difficult moments

We see some of those in the Book of Acts:

- Peter and John tossed into prison
- Continuing threats on their lives
- Commanded not to preach by the Jewish leaders or else

Jesus needed to prepare them for the work ahead

### **The Gift of Peace**

More importantly, He needed to assure them that THEY had peace:

#### **John 14:27**

**"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."**

Peace – Eirene – "peace of mind or wholeness" -> emotional security – the ability to endure difficult situations

**"My peace I give to you"**

With the Holy Spirit indwelling you, it is Jesus's gift of peace

**"not as the world gives do I give to you"**

The world cannot give you this kind of peace

Money may buy a lot of things

But it cannot buy peace

You might be able to buy physical security

You cannot buy eternal security

Eternal security is a gift

### Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Do you know what FUD is?

Fear – Uncertainty - Doubt

Jesus did not want the disciples to live in fear, uncertainty, or doubt

“Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful”

Troubled – tarasso -> same as in **John 14:1** -> “an extreme state of agitation or worry”

Jesus wanted the disciples to replace worry with hope

Fearful - deiliaó – “to be cowardly or timid” -> living in dread for the circumstances ahead of you

There are many people who fear even going outside

- Agoraphobia -> the fear of leaving a place considered as safe
- Xenophobia -> the fear of strangers

Only in Christ can we have peace instead of fear:

### Romans 5:1-5

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

3And **not only this**, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and **hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**”

Hope and Joy should replace anxiety and stress:

### John 14:28

"You heard that I said to you, '**I go away, and I will come to you.**' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."

Jesus repeats the facts from earlier -> He is going away -> But He will return

But He wants to instruct them on a biblical reaction to His departure

Instead of anguish

If they truly loved Him, they would have experienced JOY

Why? -> “because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I”

Jesus was returning to Heaven -> they should have been joyful for Him

Think about when one of our loved ones pass away

Have you ever lost someone close to you?

Did you know that they went on to Heaven?

If so, JOY for them should replace our sorrow

Even though we miss seeing them – we miss talking to them – feeling the warmth of a hug or a kind word

Some can get angry at God over the death of a loved one

We need to learn from Jesus's example teaching to the disciples

Jesus taught them this for a purpose

**John 14:29**

"Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe."

Jesus reminds them of His departure so they will believe Him even more than they do now

If He tells them of this, when He is on the cross and when He is resurrected, they will grow in faith

Peter RAN to see Jesus's grave with the stone rolled away

John OUTRACED Peter to get there

You can read about it in **John 20:3-10**

Their sorrow was turned into JOY

Jesus then finishes up with a statement about the adversary:

**John 14:30-31**

"I will not speak much more with you, **for the ruler of the world is coming**, and he has nothing in Me; but **so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me**. Get up, let us go from here."

Jesus knows His time with the disciples is drawing to a close

**"the ruler of the world is coming"**

The Light of the World is leaving

The Ruler of Darkness will be coming for Him

"he has nothing in Me"

Satan has no claim on Jesus

Jesus has committed no sin

He cannot be accused of anything where His death paid for His personal sin

Therefore, His sacrifice is for our sin

**"So that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me"**

Jesus's sacrifice on the cross is evidence of His love for the Father

Jesus always followed the Father's will

It is a great example for us, that no matter what may befall us in this life

We are to follow Jesus's commands

What did Jesus tell the disciples in the Scripture we reviewed today?

Do not be troubled

Do not be fearful

Instead, be at peace regardless of the situation

So, how do we do that?

Paul gave us the pathway:

### **The Pathway to Peace**

Do you want to know the peace of Jesus?

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

**“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 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.**”**

- 1) Live in Joy at all times
- 2) Learn to live gently and be kind to others
- 3) Realize the Lord is Near -> He sees all things -> He is the avenger of wrongs - you do not have to be God
- 4) Do not be anxious for any reason
- 5) Pray with a purpose and receive with thanksgiving

What will happen if you follow these principles?

**“the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”**

Are you at peace in life, regardless of what might happen?

Make this communion about committing to be at peace

### **Communion Prayer**

### **Benediction**