

Series: John
Title: Peace Christ Gives
Text: John 14: 27
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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.

We saw last time, when our Lord commands us to fear not, the reason he gives is himself: who he is to us and what he gives to us. That is the case here. Christ is the Prince of peace. The apostles knew Christ to be their peace. And he assures us that his peace did not leave with him when he departed.

“*Peace I leave with you.*” Father’s leave their children with an inheritance when they depart this world such as earthly possessions. Christ gives something far better, far more precious to every believer. “*Peace I leave with you.*” And that he has done.

“*My peace I give unto you.*” “*My peace*” meaning, one, it is peace that is his to give to his people, that only he is able to give. It is peace that he gives freely. It is peace that he gives unto you, his children. “*My peace*” meaning, two, it is the same peace he enjoys together with his people. When we leave an inheritance, we do not enjoy it with our children. But Christ gives his children peace that he enjoys with us and we with him—and it is all due to him.

“*Not as the world giveth, give I unto you.*” The world cannot give peace that Christ gives. The world gives false peace: earthly possessions; vain religion; peace of ignorance; temporary, fleeting peace. But Christ gives not as the world giveth. He gives true, lasting, eternal peace to his children.

PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU

This is Christ’s will and testament, his covenant of peace. This is what he has left us. It is our inheritance. It is that which he gives us. Like men make a will before their death, Christ declares his will. He gives testament of that which he leaves to his children according to his covenant. These precious promises he has been speaking of are the inheritance he leaves us according to his covenant—his will and his testament.

He promised a dwelling in God’s house prepared by him and that he will bring us into it (vv2-3)

John 14: 2: In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

He promised to give us blessings and provisions we need and ask him for (vv13-14)

John 14: 13: And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14: If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*

He promised to send the Holy Spirit who produces this fruit of peace in our new hearts (vv16-17)

John 14: 16: And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17: *Even* the Spirit of truth;

It is his will to comfort his people with his presence—the *peace*—of his presence. So he promised that he and the Father will come to his believing, loving children (v18, 23).

John 14: 18: I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.. 23: Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

He promised we shall live by his life (v19)

John 14: 19: Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

He promised to make us know our oneness with he and the Father (v20)

John 14: 20: At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

He promised the Holy Spirit would Comfort us by keeping his gospel and all Christ's precious promises new in our hearts.

John 14: 26: But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

All Christ's covenant promises make up his covenant of peace. These are the sure mercies of David. These promises comprise the peace Christ is to us and that he gives to us. This gospel word applied by the Holy Comforter in our hearts is how he makes us enjoy his peace in our hearts—"*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.*"

Here is the Incarnate Word preaching *the gospel of peace* to his people. The peace Christ gives is through the preaching of the gospel of Christ our Peace.

Acts 10: 36: The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

He is declaring his will and testament. But how is a will and testament put into force? It is made sure by the death of the Testator. Christ went to the cross and by his death established this new testament in his blood.

Hebrews 9: 15: And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. 16 For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. 18 Whereupon neither the first *testament* was dedicated without blood.

The apostles were troubled because he said he was going to the cross. But that is how this new testament is put into force so that we inherit all these precious promises of his inheritance. Christ poured out his own life's blood and made this new testament in his blood, as he said. But he arose from the grave and ascended to His Father's right hand. As our Advocate in the court of Heaven, he guarantees that all His heirs are granted the purchased blessings. It is his will and testament in his blood.

So he promises assuredly, "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you.*" He is our Peace. He accomplished peace between his people and God the Father who we offended. And the peace he applies is all these promises of his covenant of peace through faith in his blood.

Ezekiel 37:26: Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

Isaiah 54:10: For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee. 11: O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. 12: And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. 13: And all thy children *shall be* taught of the LORD; and great *shall be* the peace of thy children. 14: In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. 15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, *but* not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16 Behold, I have created the smith that

bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. 17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage [the inheritance] of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.

MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU

Peace by the blood of the cross. Christ's peace is the peace he wrought between God and his elect through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1: 20: 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. 21: And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22: In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight: 23: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven

Christ made peace with God for his people by the blood of his cross. He laid down his life for his people and brought us into peace with God by giving his life for our life. Thus our Substitute reconciled us to God forever. Then he came and preached peace to us and revealed it in our hearts in the new birth. He has spoken peace by the grace and power of his Spirit into our hearts through the gospel of peace.

This peace is not of ourselves. It is not the result of something we do. It is by the finished work of redemption that Christ worked for us and that he works in us by the Holy Spirit. It is his peace that he keeps in our hearts as only he can.

The world cannot give it. But the good news is, the world cannot take it away. It is not the peace the world gives. Christ himself is our Peace and in him we have peace and he shall keep his peace in our hearts: peace with God, peace from God, peace of God!

The peace of propitiation. It is the peace of propitiation which Christ wrought for his people which Christ is in himself. He pleased God. Our great mercy seat expiated, made atonement with God for the sin of his people. God is not angry with his people because Christ bore God's wrath on the tree in our place.

Isaiah 53:5: But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

The peace of pardon. Christ freely justified us. When the Spirit gives us faith in his blood we have peace with God.

Romans 4: 25: Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. 5: 1: Therefore being justified, by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Christ is our Peace with the Father at God's right hand. And Christ is the Peace in our hearts whereby we believe on Christ and stand in this everlasting justification—this grace wherein we stand—which Christ accomplished. Through faith in Christ we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Also, we rejoice in tribulation because he continues to shed abroad his love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. Why the tribulation? It is to show us that our peace is not in the carnal things we see and touch. He keeps us learning increasingly that he alone is our peace! Peace is not in what we do or see or touch. Peace is not in this world. This world does not and cannot give peace. So the Lord sends the trial to take away our false peace. But the Spirit of God sheds his love abroad in our heart so that we know Christ is our Peace.

John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

If any have never believed on Christ, believe on him now. God declares he "goes through the wicked" as "briers and thorns" and "burns them up together." Or by his grace, he says, "let him take hold of *My Strength* that he may make peace with me, and he *shall* make peace with me" (Is 27: 5). That does not mean, as the world says, "I made my peace with God." That is the peace the world gives. It means believe on Christ because Christ has made peace with God for his people. He is the Strength of God. Christ is the Power of God unto salvation. Through faith in Christ, who made peace with God, we have peace with God.

The peace of free forgiveness. It is the peace of knowing God remembers our sins no more. When the Spirit of God makes us hear the law and convinces us of sin—convinces us that we are the sinner—he shows us that the law reaches even to the lusts of our hearts. We are convicted. Our conscience is pricked by guilt. It lays heavy upon us and there is no peace. But he draws us to cry out to God, "Oh, have mercy on me the sinner!" And the Spirit convinces us Christ is our Righteousness. He convinces his child that Christ settled Judgment on the cross for his people. He gives faith to believe Christ and cast ourselves entirely on him.

Then what peace! He makes us know that God remembers our sins no more. That is what justification is. That is what it is to be made the righteousness of God in Christ! God remembers the sin of his people no more. Christ put away our sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 8:12: For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

Isaiah 43:25: I, *even* I, *am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Jeremiah 50:20: In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and *there shall be* none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

The peace between brethren. Since Christ is the only righteousness of each one he saves, he is the peace between brethren. Christ has fulfilled the law and made us righteous in him so that we have nothing with which to exalt ourselves over one another. He has made us one in him. Paul declares it is so between God's elect Jew and Gentile. It is true between rich and poor, male and female, bond and free. When we know ourselves to be sinners in ourselves and nothing else. And we know that it is in Christ that we two are made one—then we have peace with one another. We are one in Christ!

Ephesians 2: 14: For he is our peace, who hath made both one and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; 15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; 16: And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18: For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

The peace of providence. The peace Christ gives is the peace of knowing that he rules all things in this earth just for you and me who are his people.

Christ promised the peace he gives is not as the world gives. He said, "*in this world ye shall have tribulation.*" The world speaks of world peace. But Christ said it shall never be. And God's children shall not have peace with the unregenerate world. Christ said,

Matthew 10:34: Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Luke 12:51: Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

God's children try to be at peace with all men. But those who believe election by grace will not have peace from those who believe grace means God foresaw some good in us and therefore chose us. Those who

believe Christ accomplished the redemption of his particular people will not have peace from those who believe Christ died for all men but leaves it up to the sinner to make his blood effectual. The child of mercy who believes the Spirit of God irresistibly quickened us and preserves us by his power and grace will not be given peace from those who believe they made themselves be born-again so that they glory in their will. The unregenerate sinners who walk *in the imagination of their hearts*, rejecting the gospel and living in rebellion against him, shall not give peace to those who have been made to see our sin and loathe ourselves and follow Christ together with our brethren; we confess our sin and hate it and seek to honor him but when we fall the self-made religious world will not be merciful and show us peace; they take it as an opportunity to exalt themselves over us.

And all this tribulation from the world causes us trouble and fear in our hearts as it did the apostles that night. But the peace Christ gives is not outward but internal; it is spiritual not carnal; it is abiding, not temporary. He keeps peace in our hearts in a supernatural, mysterious way that the unregenerate world knows nothing about—"*My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives, give I unto you.*"

It is peace in believing. By the fact Christ preached this promise of peace when he knew what he was about to suffer shows it is peace in believing. The Spirit was upon him without measure. He believed God his Father in perfection. He was not troubled by this world. So the peace Christ gives and sustains in our hearts is from having our minds and hearts set on Christ above as he had his heart set on the Father and the joy set before him.

Think on this. It is the same peace that he enjoyed while on earth, though he was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. It is the peace of Christ. The same peace he had though was hated and persecuted by men. It is his peace that he gives us which he had though he had no place of rest in this world. How did he have this peace? He believed God his Father would provide all. So he had peace. We read of his rejoicing in spirit in Luke 10:21. Having humbled himself to be God the Father's servant, he trusted God, knowing that God the Father was ruling all things for him. So he had peace in believing his Father.

Whatever troubles us in this world, Christ is the peace that counteracts it through faith. Are you troubled and anxious about food and clothing. Believing Christ we have the peace of knowing that God our Father has provided us his Son—he shall with him freely give us all things. Whatever you are troubled about, dear child, believe Christ and you will find Christ answers that need exactly. Are you alone? Through faith we hear Christ promise, "I shall never leave thee nor forsake thee." Are you persecuted? Christ is our Refuge! Are you fallen in sin? Christ is our Righteousness and Sanctifier who makes us overcome. Are you troubled that your brother has fallen? Christ is our Peace because he alone makes his people stand.

Whatever the tribulation, Christ is our peace. In this world ye shall have tribulation. But exactly opposite to it, Christ is our Peace. Be of good cheer, he has overcome the world! He has overcome every tribulation we shall have in this world. Our peace is Christ. And in Christ is our peace found. He is the antidote to every fear. So Christ comes in Spirit through his gospel and turns our hearts to him, away from the things of this world. He calms our fears and renews peace in our hearts through faith in him by his Spirit. Why?

Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Tribulation, unrest, anxious care is from trying to find peace in our carnal wisdom and the carnal things we can see and taste and touch in this world. Set your affection on Christ:

Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Do you see how it is the peace of his providence? Turning us to him, he reminds us that whatever and whoever we face in this life—he put them before us—and we know that he is working *all things together for good to them that love God to them who are the called according to his purpose* (Rom 8: 28). Christ our God is ruling every king and people in this world and doing it just for his people to give us the end he purposed. This is his promise,

Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

If we believe Christ—and believe on Christ—humble ourselves under his mighty hand—then we will cease being troubled and have peace in our hearts before God and peace with our brethren! When we are yet troubled, the only reason is because we are not believing Christ alone! We are seeking peace from the world, from the carnal, from where it is not to be found!

But when the Spirit brings our sovereign Savior to our remembrance then we have peace. Peace in believing. Peace in Christ. Then we pray for those who oppose us and “*follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*” (Rom 14: 19) And knowing peace is of God, given by Christ Jesus, by the Spirit of God, through faith, this is our prayer for one another—even for those who oppose us. This is my sincere prayer for you my brethren:

Roman 15:13: 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.

Amen!