

people may have peace no matter the challenges around them or within them. As one put it, "God is able to give us peace [even] when our lives are going to pieces [humanly speaking]." How many Christians have also given evidence of this by God's grace and through the Spirit of peace within them.

When you have this fruit of the Spirit, peace, you know it is a precious fruit, an external fruit, an available fruit, a challenged fruit, and an **evident** fruit, that is, a fruit that will show itself growing in our lives. Then what Paul says in Romans 14:19 is what you desire by God's grace. "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace, and the things by which one may edify one another." One who has the fruit of the Spirit, peace, becomes a peacemaker just as Jesus speaks of it in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" [Matthew 5:9]. Are you a man or woman, boy or girl, who knows and shows the fruit of the Spirit, peace, looking also to the eternal day where for God's people, by God's grace, this fruit of peace in the world to come will be fully ripened there to be enjoyed in perfection forevermore? How totally opposite will be the place of hell where all the unsaved will go, who refused in this life to repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ as only Saviour of sin and the Prince of peace. God forbid any of you will end up in that eternally restless place with no peace anywhere forever and ever. Rather, may the Lord make each one now to be participant and promoter of God's peace through His Word and Spirit, using also this message to that gracious glorious purpose. Amen.

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August 13, 2006

Publication No.271

BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS PEACE

The fruit of the Spirit is ... peace. Whatever your situation it is good now, and a high privilege of God's grace to us, that we sit still awhile and consider this gospel truth from God's holy Word in Galatians 5:22, "the fruit of the Spirit is peace." In bringing out this fruit of the Spirit, peace, from a Biblical perspective and in a way that you can reflect on it further also afterwards, I will use the letters of the word 'peace' to make five points about the fruit of peace. It is my prayer and hope that these five points make you say and pray, "I sure desire to have this fruit of peace in my life. Lord, please give me this fruit of peace!" I am convinced anyone and everyone that has the fruit of the Spirit, peace, will agree with the Bible-based points about this fruit that this message gives.

First of all then, let us notice when you have this fruit of the Spirit, peace, you realize it is a **precious** fruit. By precious, I mean it is not that commonly found, indeed it all too often is not found, but how good when you have it, this fruit of peace. On many fronts and all levels of society, there is sad lack of peace in our times in so many respects. So many efforts and dollars and lives are spent in pursuit of peace, true and lasting peace between men, for all look for this precious fruit deep down, but it is a precious fruit so often not found, even when you want it so much and work for it so hard.

But here we have this verse from God's inspired, infallible Word, "the fruit of the Spirit is peace." And to see yet how precious this fruit of the Spirit is, we need to realize what peace Paul is speaking about here. He is speaking about peace in its fullest extent, in a threefold sense at least. He is talking about peace with self, peace with others, and especially also peace with God, the one true God. So Paul is holding forth to us here the highest and fullest and most complete and all-rounded peace there is. The reason all too many never can find full peace is because while finding peace with others in a measure, they still miss out on peace within themselves and if they have even peace with self and peace with others in a measure, they might yet miss out on peace with God. True peace and lasting peace can't be found or had unless you have all three kinds of peace, peace with God, peace with self, and peace with others, and this peace must cover our past, present, and future. This, says Paul, this real peace that passes understanding and is rich and lasting is the fruit of the Spirit, the precious

fruit of God the Holy Spirit in us and with, us guiding us into all the truth, all the gospel truth as proclaimed in God's Word. Do you recognize this fruit of peace as a most precious fruit indeed? It is priceless fruit, you could say.

But let us move on to our next point and notice it is an **external** fruit, this fruit of peace. By external I mean the fruit of peace is something not to be found with us, left to ourselves. The history of the world proves this beyond question. When God created this world, He created it good and perfect. At first there was perfect peace on earth and our first parents, Adam and Eve, knew and enjoyed beautiful peace with God and all creation and between each other. But then they sinned and rebelled against God and immediately there came division and strife and disharmony between them and in all of creation. Sin destroyed true peace, and the pursuit of real and lasting peace now is something, no matter how much worked on, yet always and again escapes us. In Jeremiah 6:14 God warns about those who heal the hurts of sinful mankind slightly or superficially, and they say "'Peace, peace' when there is no peace." Some people will say peace is packaged in pills, or in alcohol, or in having lots of money, or in this belief or that relationship, or with this yoga exercise or this latest diet, but it is all false. Isaiah 48:22 states emphatically, "*There is no peace*" saith the LORD, unto the wicked". For sinful, rebellious man against God, left to himself, there just is no peace to be found.

How important to be convinced and convicted of this, namely, that though peace is something precious and to be prized so much, yet it is a fruit external to us, no matter what people might try or think or say or do or deny. Peace is the fruit of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit of God. This every true Christian has learned. Have you learned it already too, and are you growing in realizing this humbling truth as time goes on?

This fruit of the Spirit is also an **available** fruit. It is available for you and for me, though external to us, that is, never to be found of ourselves with ourselves. This fruit of peace is available, true and complete and everlasting peace, in and through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners. This is why it is called the fruit of the Spirit because it is the Holy Spirit's constant joy and calling and design to show sinners the Christ and to draw sinners to Christ, driving home time and again the need for Him and the preciousness of Him as only Saviour from sin and Lord in our lives. The gospel message is, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to make peace for man, that peace with God, peace with self, and peace with others, true and everlasting peace even. How full the Bible is of this message!

Here think of what the angels said when Jesus was born. They proclaimed with jubilation in the night sky, with Jesus' coming, this chorus found in Luke 2:14, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, [and] good will toward men.*" In Isaiah 9:6&7 in prophecy of Jesus the Saviour, He is foretold as one Who would be among other things "*the Prince of peace*"

and that "*Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end*"! Yes, Jesus came to bring peace on earth, making a way that sinners like you and me might be reconciled to God, in a peace relationship with Him again. Jesus Christ, through His shed blood, has made perfect peace for His people before God, offering in the sinner's place a perfect righteous life, which He lived as Substitute for sinners, while at the same paying the full penalty and punishment for sin in all His sufferings all His life, which also climaxed with His cruel, shameful, and agonizing death on the cursed cross of Golgotha. As resurrected Saviour, Jesus also thus said to His disciples in Luke 24:36, "*Peace to you!*" The whole book of Acts tells about the Apostles "*preaching peace by Jesus Christ*" [Acts 10:36]. "*He is our peace*", Paul testifies in Ephesians 2:14. Listen to Jesus' words also from John 14:27 "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you....let not your heart be troubled*". There are many more Bible verses that could be mentioned.

This fruit of true peace is an available fruit for it is the fruit from God above, through the Spirit Who works with the gospel to show us it is found in and with Christ Jesus as only Saviour and Lord. We are called to repent of sin and to confess our sinfulness and misery of ourselves to Him, pleading His mercy and grace. It is in this way that we find will find the Saviour of peace. There is no peace for the wicked and unbelieving, but let all turn from sin and believe in Jesus for as Peter says in I Peter 5:14, "*Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus.*"

Is there anyone restless in mind and heart and in your better moments filled with anxiety and no peace in and with yourself, especially before God, considering your guilt of sin, your bondage in sin, and your sure and eternal punishment for sin, left to yourself? Let your conviction of any sin and the slightest sense of lack of true peace drive you to Jesus Christ the Saviour in true faith and repentance. I offer, in Jesus' Name, this fruit of the Spirit, peace, to any and all who are looking for true peace, and even if you are not looking for it, knowing we all need it so. Today is the day of salvation still, the day that the fruit of peace is yet freely and sincerely offered to all. Will there be anyone who will not take seriously the gospel call and offer in and through Jesus Christ and His Spirit and Word?

The fruit of the Spirit is peace. How wonderful when you may know the peace of God and enjoy this fruit of the Spirit. God's people know there is nothing like it, but saying that we need to say it is a fruit that is constantly **challenged**. It is challenged by sin within us and sin around us, and by Satan and this world with all kinds of assaults and attacks. But let the challenges drive us again and again to the Source and Secret of our peace, Jesus Christ, Who is not only the faithful and true Saviour of sinners, but also Lord over all. Listen just to the promise of Romans 16:20, "*And the God of peace shall bruise [crush] Satan under your feet shortly.*" The gospel truth is that God's