

“Attaining Peace,” Ephesians 2:11-22, page 1143

Introduction:

1. Peace is often described as:
 - A. Harmonious relations.
 - B. Inner contentment, serenity.
 - C. Tranquility.
2. It is very evident that peace is promised to all believers.
 - A. *John 14:27.*
 - B. *Philippians 4:6-7.*
 - C. *Galatians 1:3.*
3. We must first believe the promise extended to us.
4. We then must understand the promise and accept the promise.
5. How do we attain this promised peace?

I. Believe that true peace comes from God.

John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

- A. If we could control our lives and the circumstances that we encounter in this life, we would enjoy a life of perfect peace.
- B. The reality is that many times life and circumstances are out of control.
 1. Our lives are a mess.
 2. We cannot find peace.
- C. It is during these times that we search for an escape from our problems, looking for peace. We come up empty because we look in the wrong places.
 1. We think we need vacation/time away.
 2. Buy some new clothes.
 3. Take some drugs.
 4. Go to a party.
 5. Have a few strong drinks.
 6. Have a one-night stand.
- D. Most of us have traveled down a few dead end roads in search of peace and came up empty!
- E. True peace comes from within us as a result of a personal relationship with God.
 1. Refer to *John 14:27.*
 2. Real peace is provided by the Holy Spirit living in us.
- F. True peace comes from God.

II. Understand that true peace is a by-product of a strong faith.

Philippians 4:6-7: “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 understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- A. The stronger our belief in God and His ability to handle our problems, the more peace we will experience.
- B. I am not totally familiar with the belief of the Amish.
 - 1. School shooting in PA this week.
 - 2. Several girls were shot, and two sisters from one family were killed.
 - 3. I saw one of the parents interviewed who had children that died.
 - 4. Their faith was evident.
 - 5. "God has told us to forgive the person who shot the children."
 - 6. "Death is a part of life; our faith will help us through."
 - 7. Their lives were shattered, but their faith helped them find inner peace.
- C. I urge you to spend time (during the good times) building a strong faith.
 - 1. Get to know God by daily prayer.
 - 2. Read the Bible often.
 - 3. Spend time with Christian friends.
- D. The stronger your faith, the deeper your peace.

III. True peace is most appreciated during the storms of life. *Mark 4:35-41*, page 972.

- A. Usually the storms of life come unexpectedly and take us by surprise.
- B. If the disciples had known the storm was coming, they would have waited a day before going across the sea.
- C. I believe verse 36 is the most important verse concerning this event in the disciples' lives.
 - 1. "They took Him along with them."
 - 2. Without Jesus with them, no doubt they would have drowned.
- D. The most important decision we make each day: Take Jesus with us!
- E. We cannot know for sure when a storm will hit us:
 - 1. Illness comes.
 - 2. An accident occurs.
 - 3. School shooting (Amish).
 - 4. Katrina strikes.
 - 5. Family problems hit us.
- F. When the storms of life hit, Jesus will provide peace on the inside and hold us steady.

Conclusion:

- 1. W.D. Cornell experienced true peace during an intense storm in his life. He penned the words of the song, "Wonderful Peace," page 317.
- 2. God promises us inner peace that will hold us steady even during the biggest storms of our lives. *Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."*