

## The Peace That Passes Understanding

I recall singing the song as I grew up, "I have the peace that passes understanding down in my heart - where? - Down in my heart - where? Down in my heart..." The song was such fun to sing and even though I did not realize it at the time, the song taught a valuable lesson. Likely, the song is based upon the words of Paul in Philippians 4:7; "And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Jesus taught that such peace would come through Him, stating: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27).

The ungodly have ever been present upon the earth, both during the time of Jesus and our time today. Thus, it is of no surprise that because some choose to live ungodly, true peace from men and among men will never exist. Understanding such helps us appreciate the words of Jesus, "Do you suppose that I came to give peace to the earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division" (Luke 12:51). Peace on the earth is far different from having peace with God. Peace on earth is a physical peace whereas peace with God is a spiritual peace.

The point that both Jesus and Paul make is peace is available, but only through/in an obedient relationship made possible by the faith, which was once and for all delivered (Jude 3). Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). Children of God should have a peace about them. A peace based in knowing that our submissive obedience pleases our Father. A spiritual peace that continues through our continuance in rejoicing, prayer, thanksgiving to God, holding fast what is good, while abstaining from every form of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22).

Jesus overcame the world, and because He did, such is made possible for you and me. The words of Jesus, "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:27) give us the confidence to do just that - overcome the ungodliness of the world. Jesus was in all ways tempted just as we are (Hebrews 4:15). However, because He overcame and committed no sin, He was able to make it so that we could have peace with God by coming "Boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Paul writes, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). These words help us find spiritual peace in a far too physical world.