

John 14:27, “Peace in Jesus”

3.5.23

“Shalom” Do you know what that means? “Shalom.” It means: PEACE, in English...but, it means even more than JUST “peace.” (More on that in a second.) Shalom is the customary greeting and parting offered by a Jewish person to anyone they greet or meet. If you go to Israel today, you hear it everywhere. It’s beautiful, really.

Shalom has been used for centuries among the Jews, and of course, it was used in Jesus’ day. What does it mean? Yes, PEACE in English, but in Hebrew it has a much richer connotation than our English word: “Peace.” “Peace” in English conveys the absence of turmoil or conflict, while the word “shalom,” in Hebrew denotes something even beyond that...it’s something that can only come from God. Shalom in Hebrew means: wholeness, completeness, security and contentment that is not dependent on your circumstances. You can have shalom even when there is turmoil all around you.

Let me show you shalom. We’re going all the way back to the days of Moses and the children of Israel who were in the wilderness desert; you’ll recognize the words: *The Blessing*.

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Shalom, then, is from God and is the idea that ALL IS WELL, (that’s why we were singing, “It Is Well”), yes...all can be well, even when there is turmoil and conflict. It’s Paul and Silas singing while their feet are in stocks in a Philippian jail. See the depiction...



This peace that I’m describing...this shalom is present in its greatest form WHEN turmoil is present. That’s when it’s known in its fullness, and the world knows nothing about this kind of peace. It’s not a “worldly peace.” This kind of peace/shalom is not about happiness, it’s about joy in the midst of turmoil, struggle and pain.

You see, the world, (the unsaved), seek peace by avoiding trouble, but Christians enjoy peace and comfort from the Lord in spite of trouble. The world bases its peace on its resources, while God’s peace depends on a relationship with Him. The world depends on personal ability, but the Christian depends totally on God and His ability. The peace of God is not something that’s earned, it’s not something you can work for...it is gift from Him. His peace/shalom comes to the heart of those who are **fully yielded** to the Lord Jesus. Do you have shalom today?

But, you have to understand...you can be a Christian and forfeit this shalom, if you're seeking to use anything or anyone else to find peace...the Lord will let you use that. He'll not force Himself upon you, even though He is the Prince of Peace! It's your choice as to where you look in your time of turmoil. Colossians 3:15 says...

Colossians 3:15

⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

So how are you today? Do you have shalom...the peace of God...or do you have worry? The prophet Isaiah says:

Isaiah 26:3

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Where is your mind today? If it's on Jesus, you will have peace. If not, your mind and heart will worry! See the screens. It's been said:

“Worry is a thin stream of fear that trickles through the mind and if encouraged, it will cut a channel so wide that all other thoughts will be drowned into it.”

What's dominating your mind today? Today we're going to talk about SHALOM...we're going to talk about having "Peace in Jesus." Just one verse for our study today...

John 14:27

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 hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

You know, there's truly an absence of peace in our world. Everywhere you look there seems to be turmoil. Yet, everyone wants peace, or so they say. But, peace is so elusive. Think of all the conflicts and wars through the centuries. Think of what we see in our country...marches and signs that say: "No justice, No peace." But this lack of peace in a nation really boils down to whether or not there is peace in that nation's homes. And so, we look at America...look at the decimation of the family in America, the fact that the progressive, liberal, elites despise the original design of the family...a man and a woman and children...the fact that divorce is rampant...people living together outside of marriage is rampant...well, the family is broken in America...and thus, there is little peace.

Instead, there is anxiety, sadness, worry, tumult. Yes, people desire peace...deliverance from stress...tranquility in their homes...people say: "Can I just have some peace and quiet!" But, it's so elusive. Elusive to the point that people pursue it through diversions. Diversions of alcohol, drugs, sex, entertainment, shopping, food. Historians have defined peace in the world as the lull in the battle when everybody stops to reload. Who wants that kind of peace?

So, think with me, now about the disciples in the upper room with Jesus...the night of His betrayal and arrest. He's offering to them peace and comfort. But, think about it...what is Jesus going to go through? In the next 18 or so hours, Jesus is going to go through the most horrible moments of His life. He'll be dead by 3 pm the next afternoon...hanging dead on a cross, after having been tortured mercilessly. He knows what He faces. He knows He will be separated from His Father and He knows He will take upon Himself all the sin of the world, the heinous putridness of that sin, which galled His righteous soul. But, even in all of that, He offers peace to His followers. That's why He'll say...

John 16:32-33

³² Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³ I have said these things to

you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Jesus offers peace/shalom to His disciples. Remember, He said in verse 1 of this chapter: “Stop letting your hearts be troubled.” So, He’s offering them peace to comfort their troubled hearts. Remember, He’s offered them promises of heaven, promises that He’s preparing a room for us in His Father’s house, promises that the Holy Spirit would come and help, comfort and guide them. And now He promises: peace/shalom. But, what exactly is this peace? Paul is describing to the church at Rome how Abraham was saved by faith and it’s through faith that we have forgiveness of sins. Watch verse 1...and see how we have peace through faith...

Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith^[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we^[c] rejoice^[d] in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

See the depiction again...



Paul and Silas in a prison singing...backs split open after being beaten with rods...feet in stocks...sitting in their own waste and urine!! How? Faith producing peace. Peace that comes through faith! It’s astounding!

Listen now...let’s understand this about peace. Outside of salvation in Jesus the human soul can’t truly know shalom and that’s because before we were saved, we were enemies of God. Therefore, there was no way to have peace with God. We could say it this way: “No God, No Peace.” Watch...

Colossians 1:19-23

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Church, before our salvation, we were part of the kingdom of darkness, (Satan's kingdom)...no...we didn't choose that...we were born into it...because we're all born sinners because of what happened in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and cursed all humanity with sin. Therefore, we're born sinners... "...for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." But, because Jesus paid our sin debt...He made a way to the Father...the only way...because He is THE WAY, we can have peace with God. That's 2 Corinthians 5...

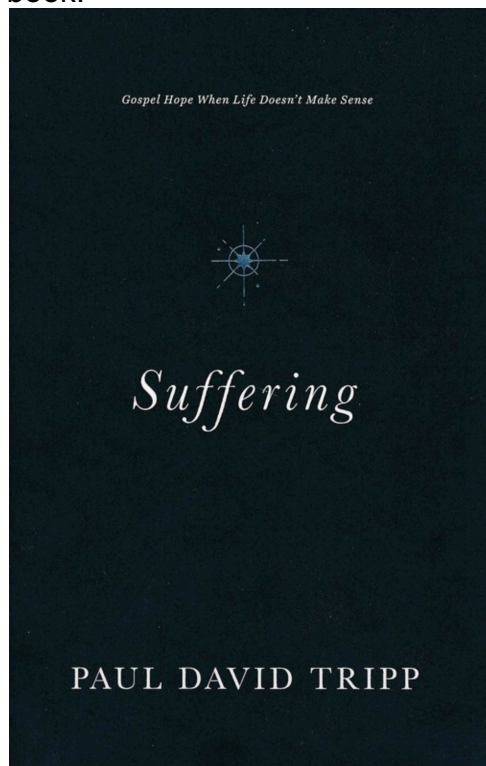
2 Corinthians 5:19-21

¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[a] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The peace/shalom of Jesus brings righteousness...you will not know peace living in sin. The peace of God is divine, it's supernatural, it's not of this world, it comes from heaven, it belongs to Jesus.

Think of the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, what? Peace. It's a by-product...a fruit of the Spirit... When we get squeezed, there should be peace flowing from us... But, here's the problem church...we, as Christians, can struggle to experience this peace simply because we don't have a proper understanding of what's happening to us when we're struggling or suffering in this life.

The Staff has been reading this book:



"Suffering-Gospel Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense," by Paul David Tripp. It's a fantastic book that helps us to understand our lives as we go through seasons of suffering, and the reason I bring up suffering...is because we'll never experience the peace of God, if we don't have a proper understanding of why we suffer. I want to show you this quote from Tripp:

“Our lives are shaped not just by what we suffer but by what we bring to our suffering. What you think about yourself, life, God, and others will profoundly affect the way you think about, interact with, and respond to the difficulty that comes your way... We never suffer just the thing we’re suffering, but we also suffer the way we’re suffering it... Your suffering is more powerfully shaped by what’s in your heart than by what’s in your body or in the world around you... Suffering doesn’t so much change your heart, as expose what has been in your heart all along. Difficulty has an amazing ability to reveal what’s inside us. Trials reveal your true thoughts and desires, where you have been looking for life, where you have sought meaning, and where you have looked to for your hope.” Paul David Tripp, “Suffering”

Where are you looking to for hope? Where are you looking to for meaning? It’s got to be Him...



We’ve got to come like the blind, like the lame, like the deaf...we’ve got to come in our weakness and look into His face and cry out to Him in our desperation...because it’s in our weakness that we will obtain strength...shalom. Where are you looking to today? What are you looking to?

The Apostle Paul suffered mightily while sharing the Gospel. He was pummeled by men who beat him and men who lied about him, falsely accused him...and sought to kill him. Yet, God provided for him and even let him see heaven...paradise...but even with that came a thorn in the flesh so that Paul might not become conceited. Watch verse 7...

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations,^[a] a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Are you weak today? You’re in a good spot. Because it’s in your weakness that Jesus comes and give you His strength and His rest...His peace. That’s why He said: “Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

And that's what Jesus was seeking to do in that upper room. He knew what His disciples were getting ready to go through. He knew it was going to be the hardest thing they had ever done...to watch Him die...it was going to be the tragedy of all tragedies, and He's preparing them. He's offering Himself...peace. And church, that's what He did even after He died and rose from the dead?

The disciples are back in that upper room after Jesus was crucified. They're in shock. They're reeling, they're scared...wondering will they be arrested...will they be killed for being part of Jesus' followers...you know, "Guilty by association." Watch what happens-verse 19.

John 20:19-21

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,^[c] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

Church, Jesus wasn't going to leave them as orphans, and nor does He do that to us. We go through this life...this hard, difficult life with Jesus...His Spirit residing in our souls to comfort us and strengthen us and guide us...



to carry us, if need be. And the Holy Spirit, representing Jesus, brings us peace. **But, as always, there's the other side of the coin**...for those who don't know Him. What about them? Listen. Hmm... "No Jesus, No peace." Isaiah the prophet describes the difference in the believer and non-believer. First, the believer...

Isaiah 57:18-21

¹⁸ I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners ¹⁹ creating the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the Lord, "and I will heal him. ²⁰ But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. ²¹ There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

There is no peace for the wicked...and yet, so many people won't listen. You know, even in the end times people will say there is peace...a manufactured peace by the Anti-Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers,^[a] you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

Church family, the world will seek peace anywhere it can find it...even a fake Christ...but it's all folly...fool's gold, dangled by Satan in front of the faces of the ignorant, the blind, those without ears to hear. **Peace is only available in Jesus.** Do you know Jesus? If not, not only are you giving up heaven...which is tragic...because Hell will be your eternal home, but you're giving up peace that you can know right now on this earth. A supernatural peace that comes from our supernatural Savior! Please don't forfeit heaven and peace, just to have it your way.

Now, there's one thing left that we need to see in verse 27. We must pursue peace! It's a command. Look at the last part of verse 27:

John 14:27c

²⁷ **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

Jesus says "Let," twice...that's a command. Does it seem odd to you that we're told if we're to have peace we have to pursue it and that it's a command? You say, "I thought we couldn't earn it?" We can't, but we still have to pursue it and obey the command...which is no more strange than to say you've got a toolbox with tools in it...but you have to use the tools for them to be effective. Or you've got a checking account with money in it...but you've got to be willing to draw out the money to buy something. You've got to use the tools...use the money...pursue peace.

People lack peace because they're not pursuing TRUE PEACE. John MacArthur says, "The lack of peace is not an emotional issue; not a psychological issue; not a circumstantial issue; it's a spiritual issue." And He's right. We're all spirits, made in the image of God...our spirits housed in these jars of clay...and because of that...the human soul can't truly know peace until they know Jesus. Only those who know Jesus can have peace with God. Because true peace comes from God.

Do you understand? Perfect peace is the product of trust in Jesus. Listen, the more we trust Jesus, the more we focus on Him, not our circumstances...the more thankful we are in the midst of pain...suffering...trials...it's then, that the peace of God floods our souls...and that peace is beyond human comprehension. Phil. 4:7

As we close, I want you to understand what we've talked about today. It's been about Shalom...not the English word for peace...because that peace is dependent upon our circumstances...no we've been talking about the Jesus kind of peace/shalom. Let's see if we can summarize it this way:

Listen now: You ARE a child of the King...but you can and will still suffer...because in this world you will have tribulation. And so, it's true Christians get depressed. Christians struggle with anxiety, fear and doubt. But, those things are not stronger than us...those things are NOT stronger than you...because the One who lives in you is stronger. Jesus is stronger and more powerful than any terrible, any horrible, any awful thing that has happened to you or ever will happen to you. It will not defeat you. Those things don't have to define you. Your past doesn't have to define you. What you're going through right now doesn't have to define...what may come doesn't define you. Jesus defines you. He sees you, and listen, Peace is person. His name is Jesus. See Him...



Would you place yourself in His hands today...into the hands of the Prince of Peace? Would you look into His face? If you will...everything else you've been trying to use to bring you peace will fade away. Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

I want to close by use reading this benediction together. Would you read it with me and receive it as you read it...

Numbers 6:24-26

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Shalom!