

Perfect Peace

One of my favorite hymns is entitled, "Peace, Perfect Peace." As you read this beautiful poem, please notice how the opening phrase of each of the first four verses is a question. In essence the writer is asking, "With all of the trouble in the world, can we really find perfect peace? The second phrase of each of the first four verses answers affirmatively while the fifth verse clearly expresses that peace that one finds when he or she realizes that this perfect peace is found in trusting God.

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging 'round?
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.

Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.

Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.

It is enough: earth's struggle soon shall cease,
And, Jesus, call us to heaven's perfect peace.

We are surrounded by sin and sorrow, death is all around and we don't know what tomorrow holds. How can we possibly find inner peace? The answer is in our confidence in the efficacy of the soul-saving blood of Jesus, His compassion as our mediator, His power as King and His supremacy over death. All of this comfort and peace can be found in His Word (I Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 4:15-16; I Corinthians 15:24-27; I Corinthians 15:55-57).

Isaiah wrote, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3). The apostle Paul wrote, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7).

Of all the blessings that men and women would like to possess, certainly inner peace is at the top of the list. What type of answers do you suppose we would get if we were to ask a hundred people, "What would you like most in life?" Some would flippantly answer, "An expensive car or a mansion." Others would more thoughtfully say, "To fall in love and have a happy home." Still others would express a more pressing concern as they would answer, "I want to get over the trouble I'm facing right now." May I suggest that finding the perfect peace that is in Christ would satisfy each of these desires? Each person, even the shallow respondent in search of material things, would find that this peace is attainable in all situations in life. Whether they have the finances to own the fancy car or the lack of finances that forces them to take public transportation, whether they have the happy home or are still searching for that certain someone, whether life is all rosy and carefree or they are facing a bundle of trouble, they would have that which they most need, namely, inner peace. Again the apostle Paul wrote, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:11-13).

When all the fancies of life are stripped away and it is just us facing eternity, what do we want most? Would not the wealthiest of men, lying on his deathbed, offer everything he owned to God in exchange for inner peace? The irony of the matter is that this peace is available all through our lives and its attainment cannot be purchased with money. Peace, perfect peace is found in humble obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How much simpler can it be, and yet how tragic it is that millions grope through the darkness of sin, seeking this peace in material things, in drugs and alcohol, in illicit lifestyles and a myriad of other ungodly venues, never once bothering to look toward God and never once taking the time to delve into His Word. The peace that passes all understanding, that is so great that no sensual mind can comprehend it, is

right in front of our faces. Why should anyone want to live in agony when the peace offered by the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) is so readily available?

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