Words of Truth

Don't Look For Peace In The Wrong Place
By: Brian A. Yeager

Jesus, talking to His disciples, said this: *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.* **In the world ye shall have tribulation***: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). We can see, with our eyes, how this is true. Even if you are not talking about suffering for Christ, the world is still full of trouble. We see that all around us. Those who embrace this world and the principles thereof are not at peace (Isaiah 48:22 and Isaiah 57:21). That is why many worldly people are always looking for something better and cannot find satisfaction. The world does not supply peace for anyone.

As Christians, the world definitely is not a source of peace for us. In fact, it is the exact opposite. Notice these Scriptures: *"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me… I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world… Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God… Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution… Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world"* (John 15:19-21, John 17:14, Acts 14:22, II Timothy 3:12, and I Peter 5:8-9).

This study opened with a quote of John 16:33 wherein Jesus said peace, for His followers, is found in Him. If you are a Christian, the Lord is where you're going to find peace (Acts 10:36 and Romans 5:1-2). If you are not finding that peace, the problem is you. Most often, those Christians who look for peace in Christ and do not find it are looking for the wrong kind of peace.

Looking For The Right Kind Of Peace

Are you looking for peace in a way that will make life in this world carnally easy? If so, you're not going to find it. The kind of peace Christians, or anyone for that matter, can find is not going to be carnal peace. It doesn't exist in this world (Job 14:1 and Ecclesiastes 2:17-23). The only kind of peace we can have in this life is a spiritual, inward peace. Notice these Scriptures: *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace… 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. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things… And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (Romans 8:6, Philippians 4:6-8, and Colossians 3:15).

To make this point clear, consider an illustration of sorts. If you are carnally minded and sick. You are looking to be at peace during this time of illness. Do you think you're going to find peace if you will only be at such with guarantees of healthiness to come? Some spend time in prayer (as though miracles still happen in such a way) and at doctors looking to get better. This is the only way that person can be at peace - "getting better". However, not all illnesses go away. Death is a certain thing, unless Christ returns first (I Thessalonians 4:13-5:2), for all of us (Genesis 3:17-19, II Samuel 14:14, Psalms 89:48, Ecclesiastes 3:20, and Hebrews 9:27). The spiritually minded person, on the other hand, does not fret over whether or not wellness will come. The spiritually minded person is at peace knowing that, whether health or death occurs, nothing really changes. The spiritually minded person keeps doing what they do (Romans 14:8). We are not troubled, knowing that if death occurs we have great things to look forward to (John 14:1-3). Carnal fear is not part of a true Christian's mindset (II Timothy 1:7). Therefore, peace is not only attainable, but is a state of mind.

What Is Your State Of Mind?

Your state of mind determines what it will take for you to be at peace. Paul was continually troubled in the flesh, but was not in despair. Why? Notice: *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, **but not in despair**; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but **though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day**. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While **we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal"*** (II Corinthians 4:8-18).

Conclusion

If you are not at peace, you need to fix you. Maybe you're looking for the wrong kind of peace. Maybe your thinking is the problem. Maybe there is some other source of trouble we've not considered in this study. Regardless, peace is the state of mind that faithful Christians should live in (II Corinthians 13:11). Make sure you're looking for that peace in the right place (Romans 1:7).