

“My peace I give to you.”

*John 14:27*

*“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*

Once again, Jesus moves to comfort His disciples who are still anxious about the fact that He will soon be leaving them.

Earlier, He had promised them that the Father would send the Holy Spirit to them to comfort and teach them in His absence. He told them that in verses 16 & 17, and again in verses 25 & 26.

/Now, He is going to comfort them by giving a great gift: His peace.\

His peace will ease their hearts and soothe their fears.

/He sets His peace in opposition to the peace that the world offers.\

And so we will follow His roadmap this morning.

/What is the peace of Christ?\

We will learn what it isn't, and then what it IS.

/What the peace of Christ isn't is the peace that the world offers.\

/The world offers a peace that is conditional. It's based on power and might. And it's temporary. The world lies about the peace it offers. And it usually comes with strings attached.\

In Isaiah 36, the world is embodied by the king of Assyria.

/Let's see the kind of "peace" that he offered to Judah and her king, king Hezekiah.\

*Isa 36:13-20*

*13 Then Rabshakeh stood and cried with a loud voice in Judean and said, "Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria.*

*14 "Thus says the king, 'Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you; 15 nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, "The Lord will surely deliver us, this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria." 16 'Do not listen to Hezekiah,' for thus says the king of Assyria, 'Make your peace with me and come out to me, and eat each of his vine and each of his fig tree and drink each of the waters of his own cistern, 17 until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards. 18 'Beware that Hezekiah does not mislead you, saying, "The Lord will deliver us." Has any one of the gods of the nations delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? 19 'Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? And when have they delivered Samaria from my hand? 20 'Who among all the gods of these lands have delivered their land from my hand, that the Lord would deliver Jerusalem from my hand?'"*

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/The prophet Jeremiah attacked the worldly leaders of Judah and the false peace they offered the people.\

*Jer 6:13-15*

*13 "For from the least of them even to the greatest of them,  
Everyone is greedy for gain,  
And from the prophet even to the priest  
Everyone deals falsely.*

*14 "They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially,  
Saying, 'Peace, peace,'  
But there is no peace.*

*15 "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done?  
They were not even ashamed at all;  
They did not even know how to blush.  
Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;  
At the time that I punish them,  
They shall be cast down," says the Lord.*

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So much for the peace that the world offers.

/What about the peace that Christ gives?\

Here are ten things that the Bible teaches about this peace:

/First, the Old Testament prophets looked ahead to the Messiah who would come and establish His kingdom. He would provide peace to Israel.\

*Isa 9:6-7*

*6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;*

*And the government will rest on His shoulders;*

*And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,*

*To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore.*

*The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.*

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/Second, the peace of Christ is a permanent peace. It will not be taken away. It is eternal.\

*1 Kings 2:33*

*So shall their blood return on the head of Joab and on the head of his descendants forever; but to David and his descendants and his house and his throne, may there be peace from the Lord forever."*

/Third, the peace of Christ is a gift. "My peace I GIVE to you".\

There are no strings attached. The grace of God provides His peace to the ungodly who believe in Christ.

*Rom 1:7*

*7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

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/Fourth, the peace of Christ means that we are reconciled to God forever. \

*2 Cor 5:18-19*

*18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ*

*reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

*/Fifth, This reconciliation was secured by the blood of Christ: His death on the cross.\*

*Col 1:19-22*

*19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

*21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach*

*Rom 5:8-11*

*8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

*10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

*/Sixth, the peace of Christ flows from the righteousness of God.\*

*Isa 32:15-17*

*15 Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high,  
And the wilderness becomes a fertile field,  
And the fertile field is considered as a forest.*

*16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness  
And righteousness will abide in the fertile field.*

*17 And the work of righteousness will be peace,  
And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.*

*Rom 5:1-2*



*1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

/Seventh, the peace of God guards our hearts and minds. It banishes fear and worry.\

*Phil 4:6-7*

*6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

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Note also that the peace of God surpasses all comprehension. Our minds can't fathom its workings.

/Eighth, Christ Himself is our peace.\

*Eph 2:13-16*

*13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.*

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/Ninth, we are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.\

*Col 3:15*

*15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

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/Finally, the day will dawn when this peace will reign over the entire earth.\

*Zech 9:9-10*

*9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*Behold, your king is coming to you;  
He is just and endowed with salvation,  
Humble, and mounted on a donkey,  
Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
10 I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
And the horse from Jerusalem;  
And the bow of war will be cut off.  
And He will speak peace to the nations;  
And His dominion will be from sea to sea,  
And from the River to the ends of the earth.  
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