

**THE POWER OF SHALOM**  
Follow Christ  
Banska Bystrica 22nd October 2017

<p>Εἰρήνην ἀφήμι ὑμῖν, εἰρήνην τὴν ἐμὴν δίδωμι ὑμῖν· οὐ καθὼς ὁ κόσμος δίδωσιν ἐγὼ δίδωμι ὑμῖν. μὴ ταρασσέσθω ὑμῶν ἡ καρδία μηδὲ δειλιάτω</p>	<p><b>John 14:27</b> <u>Peace I leave with you; my peace</u> 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</p>
<p>οὐ γάρ ἐστιν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ βρωσικαὶ καὶ πόσις ἀλλὰ δικαιοσύνη καὶ εἰρήνη καὶ χαρὰ ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ·</p>	<p><b>Rom 14:17</b> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of (1) righteousness and (2) peace and (3) joy in the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>יִצְרָר כְּמוֹתָךְ תִּצְרָר שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם כִּי בָּךְ בָּטוּחַ</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 26:3</b> You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.</p>
<p>וְכָל-בְּנֵיךְ לִמְנוּחֵי יְהוָה וְרַב שְׁלוֹם בְּנֵיךְ</p>	<p><b>Isaiah 54:13</b> All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children</p>

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**0. INTRODUCTION**

**0.1. AFTER JUSTIFICATION WHAT?**

- (1) righteousness → (2) peace → (3) joy [Rom 14:17] → emotional struggle?
- to be concerned only with *rightness, correctness, lawfulness* in Christianity leads to stagnation and disappointment because of the lack of emotional satisfaction

[Thomas WATSON] True blessedness consists in fruition;<sup>1</sup> there must not be only possession—but fruition. A man may possess an estate—yet not enjoy it. He may have the dominion of it—but not the comfort, as when he is in a sickness, or under the predominance of melancholy. **But in true blessedness there must be a sensible enjoyment of that which the soul possesses**<sup>2</sup>

- God speaking to Elijah – from quietness ↔ God speaking to Job – from the storm

[LLOYD-JONES] **There is no profounder change in the universe than the change which is described as regeneration**; but regeneration—the work of God in the soul by which He implants a principle of divine and spiritual life within us—does not change a man's temperament. Your temperament still remains the same. The fact that you have become a Christian does not mean that you cease to have to live with yourself. You will have to live with yourself as long as you are alive, and yourself is yourself and not somebody else's self. (*Spiritual Depression*)

## 0.2. THE IDEA OF “SHALOM”

- the word → שָׁלוֹם to be quiet, be at ease; thoughtless; careless; erred, forgot;
  - שָׁלוֹם → 1 well-being, welfare. 2 safety, security. 3 completeness, soundness. 4 health. 5 condition. 6 peace. 7 Ivrit 'shalom' (the most common greeting in Hebrew).
- opposite of (1) anxiety, fear, (2) negativity, discontent, grumbling (3) anger, hate, war
- salvation, victory, POWER

## 0.3. THE “GOD OF PEACE”

- Rom 15:33 (“be with you” → final blessing); 16:20 (“under your feet” → spiritual victory over Satan); Phil 4:9 (“be with you” → the presence of God); 1Thess 5:23 (sanctify you → life of holiness); Heb 13:20 (“equip with everything good” → be pleasing to God)
- → (1) communion with God, (2) spiritual victory, (3) sanctification, (4) fullness of life

## 1. FALSE SOURCES OF PEACE

### 1.1. HUMAN PRAISE OR SHAME

- honor & shame (1Cor 7:23 do not become slaves of men μὴ γίνεσθε δοῦλοι ἀνθρώπων) **regularly described as having physical or physiological symptoms (typically blushing) and as involving characteristic behavioural responses (such as averting one's gaze, bowing or veiling the head,**
- → emotion (#motion) of complacency, (Pr 29:25 The fear of man lays a snare)

### 1.2. PSYCHOLOGY AGAINST FAITH

- “happiness” ↔ “blessedness”; → MASLOW's pyramid of needs (the physical is basic)
- entertainment; = fullness of life? → *positive psychology* [Seligman] studying human flourishing
  - Ps 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore
- substitutes for hope → imagining happy future (*Fear of the Future* → *Spiritual Depression*)

### 1.3. STOICISM

- philosophy of detachment from the “outside” world → the idea of *independence*...
  - [EPICETUS] For it makes no difference what the external object be, the value you set upon it makes you subservient to another.
- Christian attitude to problems is not *denial*, *ignoring* or *negativity*:

[CHAMBERS] Stoicism has come so much into the idea of the Christian life that we imagine the stoic is the best type of Christian; but just where stoicism seems most like Christianity it is most adverse. A stoic

<sup>1</sup> *fruition* = action of enjoying; enjoyment, pleasurable possession, the pleasure arising from possession (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

<sup>2</sup> WATSON, Th. *The Beatitudes*.

overcomes the world by passionlessness, by **eviscerating all personal interest out of life** until he is a mere submissive recording machine. Christianity overcomes the world by passion, not by passionlessness. **Passion** is usually taken to mean something from which human nature suffers; in reality it stands for **endurance and high enthusiasm, a radiant intensity of life**, life at the highest pitch all the time without any reaction. That is what Paul means by “Be being filled.” (*The Place of Help*)

- Christian overcoming does **not** come **from our inner strength**:

[BUNYAN *Pilgrim's Progress*] Then I saw in my dream, that the Interpreter took Christian by the hand, and led him into a place where was a fire burning against a wall, and one standing by it, always casting much water upon it, to quench it; yet did the fire burn higher and hotter. – Then said Christian, What means this? – The Interpreter answered, This fire is the work of grace that is wrought in the heart; he that casts water upon it, to extinguish and put it out, is the devil: but in that thou seest the fire, notwithstanding, burn higher and hotter, thou shalt also see the reason of that. So he had him about to the back side of the wall, where he saw a man with a vessel of oil in his hand, of the which he did also continually cast (but secretly) into the fire. – Then said Christian, What means this? – The Interpreter answered, This is Christ, who continually, with the oil of his grace, maintains the work already begun in the heart; by the means of which, notwithstanding what the devil can do, the souls of his people prove gracious still. 2 Cor. 12:9. And in that thou sawest that the man stood behind the wall to maintain the fire; this is to teach thee, that it is hard for the tempted to see how this work of grace is maintained in the soul.

## 2. PEACE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

### 2.1. THE PEACE WITH GOD

- **Rom 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ → [BONAVENTURE]...there is a peace of grace and a peace of glory.
- **Is 48:18** Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river (כְּנָהָר שְׁלוֹמֶךָ), and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;

### 2.2. THE PEACE FROM GOD

- the danger of relying on explanations (“theology”)
- **Pr 16:7** When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. (בְּרִצּוֹת יְהוָה יִתְהַדְּרְכֵרְאִישׁ גַּם־אֹיְבָיו וְשָׁלֵם אִתּוֹ)

### 2.3. THE PEACE OF GOD

- **Phil 4:7** the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (ἡ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν), will guard your hearts and your minds (φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα) in Christ Jesus.

### 2.4. THE PEACE OF JESUS

- **John 14:27** 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 (μὴ ταρασσέσθω ὑμῶν ἡ καρδία μηδὲ δειλιάτω).

[CHAMBERS] When you are right with God, receive your peace by studying in consecrated concentration our Lord Himself; it is the peace that comes from looking at His face and remembering the undisturbed condition of our Lord in every set of circumstances. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory (*Christian Disciplines*)

[CHAMBERS] Never have the idea of jadedness or stagnation in your mind in connection with peace. Health is physical peace, but health is not stagnation; health is the perfection of physical activity. Virtue is moral peace, but virtue is not innocence; virtue is the perfection of moral activity. Holiness is spiritual peace, but holiness is not quietness; holiness is the intensest spiritual activity (*Bringing Sons Unto Glory*)

### 3. WALKING IN PEACE

#### 3.1. FACING REALITY

- *The Art of Divine Contentment* (Thomas WATSON); *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* (Jeremiah BURROUGHS)
- **Phil 4:11** I have learned (ἐμάθον) in whatever situation I am to be content
  - [WATSON *The Art of Divine Contentment*] ...two things which keep us from learning: (1) Slighting what we hear. ... (2) Forgetting what we hear.

#### 3.2. CHOOSING WHAT AND HOW TO THINK

- **2Cor 10:4-5** ... We destroy arguments (λογισμούς καθαιρούμεντες)<sup>5</sup> and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God (ὕψωμα ἐπαυρόμενον κατὰ τῆς γνώσεως τοῦ θεοῦ), and take every thought captive to obey Christ
- **Phil 4:8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things (ταῦτα λογίζεσθε).
- **Phi 4:9** What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me (ἐμάθετε καὶ παρελάβετε καὶ ἠκούσατε καὶ εἶδετε ἐν ἐμοί) – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you
- Mt 6 → no anxiety

#### 3.3. FOCUS ON JESUS!

- **John 14:27-29** 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.<sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.<sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. → → →
- **Eph 2:4-6** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved –<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (καὶ συνήγειρεν καὶ συνεκάθισεν ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ)

[NEE *Sit, Walk, Stand*] ...the epistle to the Ephesians, setting forth the believer's position in Christ (1:1–3:21), his life in the world (4:1–6:9) and his attitude to the Enemy (6:10–24). ... Christianity does not begin with walking; it begins with sitting. The Christian era began with Christ, of whom we are told that, when He had made purification of sins, He “sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb. 1:3). With equal truth we can say that the individual Christian life begins with a man “in Christ”—that is to say, when by faith we see ourselves seated together with Him in the heavens. Most Christians make the mistake of trying to walk in order to be able to sit, but that is a reversal of the true order. ...But Christianity is a queer business! If at the outset we try to do anything, we get nothing; if we seek to attain something, we miss everything. For Christianity begins not with a big do, but with a big done.

### 4. TO REMEMBER

- The peace of God is an integral part of Christian victorious living.
- To fully experience the peace of God we must get rid of deadening substitutes.
- The peace of God comes through a loving identification with Jesus on his throne in heaven.