



POINTCHURCH

Devotional

GOD'S PEACE THAT PASSES UNDERSTANDING

THEMES: The Peace of God

Philippians 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

We are accustomed to finding peace after we understand something. *After* we learned a lesson in school, we were at peace in taking the test. *After* we ^{learned} a personality quirk of a family member, we felt at peace and trusted we could live in greater harmony with them. However, God's ways are higher than our ways. God's peace passes understanding and allows us to have peace during the tough moments of life.

-God's Peace is Permanent; The World's Peace is Fickle

The peace offered by the world is an empty promise that does not last. The world's peace is momentary and passes as circumstances change. On the other hand, God's peace is permanent and is offered by the only One who can be trusted in every situation.

-God's Peace is Built on the Word of God and Relationship with Him;

The World's Peace is built on the Current Circumstance

When circumstances are free of conflict, we enjoy momentary peace. But when we face difficult relationships, health problems, or financial crisis, the momentary quiet is disrupted and confusion rules the day. Thankfully, our God offers peace in the midst of chaos. His peace doesn't change with the circumstances; it is secure and settled, in spite of the conditions. *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you. (Isaiah 54:10-NIV)* God can be trusted. He never contradicts himself or acts in a way that is out of character. He will never disappoint you.

-God's Peace Comes From Solving the Sin Problem; The World's Peace Ignores the Root of the Sin Problem

When asked, “What’s wrong with the world today?” many will point to unpredictable stock markets, corrupt government, toxic social media, lack of healthcare, broken families, overcrowded schools, and more. The world tries to fix these problems by doing good and improving these weaknesses, to achieve a temporary type of peace. Sadly, our secular society tries to fix the symptoms of sin but ignores the root of the problem, the sin itself.

The sin issue is only solved by confession of sin, water baptism in Jesus’ name for forgiveness of sins and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost (See **Acts 2:38; Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-6**)—Sin is not solved by money, government regulation, or social reform. In contrast to the world’s false peace, God’s peace is firmly grounded in his Word. He doesn’t ignore sin; He brings peace by forgiving and washing the sin away through repentance, baptism in Jesus’ name and filling the person with the Holy Spirit. This world’s peace is built on the weak foundation of the stability and control we have at a certain moment of time or in our human understanding. Clearly, God’s approach is different. **Proverbs 3:5-6** instructs, “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*” So, you don’t have to understand....to rest in the peace of God. You are not required to know the outcome before you rest in the peace of God, even while going through the storms of life.

DO YOU WANT TO GO DEEPER?

REFLECT/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Is it easier to trust God in some areas of your life but not in other parts? Do you have triggers or indicators for when you are trusting in your own understanding, instead of relying on God? Is it possible to ignore God? Think of and discuss a story in the Bible in which a person trusted God through a difficult situation.

PRAY: "Lord, help me to trust in you and rest in your peace."

MORE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27; Exodus 33:14; Nahum 1:7; Matthew 6:25, 34

-The Peace of God Passes Understanding-