

JOHN 14:27
APRIL 2, 1989
ROME GEORGIA
August 9, 2015

27 years ago (**1988!**), Annette and I attended the dedication of the new campus of Southeastern Bible College. One of the central buildings, (the one that necessitated the move in the first place,) is the new **Gannett-Estes Library**.

Prominently displayed is a collection of one of the most incredible books ever written, **Pilgrims Progress**, by **John Bunyan**. "In **Bunyan's** great allegory, **Pilgrim's Progress**, the incident is related of how the main character named "**Christian**" decides to leave the Main Highway and follow **another Path** which seemed easier. But this Path leads him to the territory of **Giant Despair** who owns **Doubting Castle**.

Eventually, he is captured by **Giant Despair** and kept in a dungeon.

After several days of beatings and depravation, he is advised to kill himself. The Giant said that there would be no use in trying to keep on with his journey. For the time, it seemed as if **Despair** had really conquered Christian.

But then, **HOPE**, Christian's companion, reminds him of previous victories. So it came about that on Saturday about midnight they began to pray, and continued in prayer until almost morning. Now a little before it was day, good **Christian**, as one half amazed, broke out in passionate speech.

"What a fool am I thus to lie in a stinking dungeon, when I may as well be at liberty. I have a key in my bosom called "promise" that will, I am persuaded, open any lock in doubting castle" Then said **Hopeful**.

"That's good news brother, pluck it out of thy bosom and try." **Christian** opened the door of the dungeon and the door of the castle and finally the gate to the courtyard of doubting castle.

Tan #2006. Cf. P. 107 **Pilgrims Progress**.

Only 8% of the time since the beginnings of recorded history has the world been entirely at **peace**. In the **3521** years of history, only **286** have been warless. **Eight thousand treaties** have been broken during this time. **Tan #4301**.

OF THE 200 TREATIES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY EUROPEAN NATIONS SINCE 1919, THE AVERAGE TIME THEY REMAINED IN FORCE WAS 2 YEARS. DURING THAT SAME PERIOD, FOR EVERY YEAR OF WAR, THERE HAVE 2 MINUETS OF PEACE! **Tan #4304**.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, **MY PEACE** I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

MATTHEW HENRY, COMMENTING ON THIS PASSAGE SAID,
"WHEN CHRIST WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THIS WORLD, HE MADE HIS WILL.

HIS **SOUL** HE COMMITTED TO HIS **FATHER**.

HIS **BODY** HE BEQUEATHED TO **JOSEPH** TO BE DECENTLY INTERRED;

HIS **CLOTHES** FELL TO THE **SOLDIERS**;

HIS **MOTHER** WAS LEFT IN THE CARE OF **JOHN**,

BUT WHAT SHOULD HE LEAVE TO HIS POOR DISCIPLES?

HE HAD **NO SILVER NOR GOLD**, BUT HE LEFT THEM THAT WHICH WAS **INFINITELY BETTER**. – HIS **PEACE** ." *db 3-20-72*.

THE **PEACE** THAT CHRIST PROVIDES FOR HIS FOLLOWERS ("**MY PEACE**") IS IN FACT, **GOD'S PEACE**.

MAN MUST HAVE THIS **PEACE BEFORE** THERE CAN BE ANY OTHER **PEACE!**

Story of young person (*Ethel LaBotz*) who was dissatisfied with the course of their life. She decided that what she was missing was "peace" - and so she joined the **Peace Corps** and went to **Irian Jaya** (*Irian Jaya is a part of Indonesia*). Though she was in the "Peace Corps" she knew No Inner Peace. She met an old man who was different from any one else. He told her that **Jesus was in his heart**. She started reading the bible. Through her reading and the witness of her Indian friend, she at last found the **peace** that only God can give. **DB 10-27-83**.

PEACE WITH GOD - - **ROM. 5:1** - **BY FAITH**

Rom 5:1 Therefore being **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

CHRIST CAN GIVE THIS **PEACE** BECAUSE HE HAS DEALT WITH THE SIN ISSUE.

Colossians 1:20-21 And, **HAVING MADE PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD** OF HIS CROSS, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

H O W ?

Romans 5:1 Therefore being **JUSTIFIED BY FAITH**, we have **PEACE** WITH GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ:

STORY of the dockworker that preacher **Henderson** witnessed to: Later, joined crew of ill fated **steamship LONDON**. **It sank**. A Few months later, a sailor came to **pastor Henderson**. Told how **between the message and his witness** - the dockworker got saved. As the ship was sinking, they were putting out a **lifeboat**, but the dockworker didn't make it aboard.

The last that was seen of him, he was on the **mast of the sinking ship waving his hat and shouting, BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: Rom. 5:1.**

ONCE WE HAVE **PEACE "WITH" GOD**" through **FAITH** - WE CAN THEN ENJOY THE; **PEACE OF GOD** - - **BY PRAYERFULNESS**

Be careful for nothing; but in everything 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. **PHIL. 4:6-7**

A young father and his young son were having dinner one evening and started with a **-silent prayer**. After father finished praying, his **son kept his little head bowed for a long time**. Finally he looked up.

"What in the world were you praying about all that time?" asked the father.
With the innocence and honesty of a child he replied.
"HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW? IT WAS A SILENT PRAYER."

UNFORTUNATELY, MUCH OF OUR PRAYER LIFE COULD PROBABLY BE CHARACTERIZED THE SAME WAY! *db 12-12-84.*

The Psalmist points out ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF ENJOYING THE "**PEACE OF GOD**"

Ps. 4:8 "I WILL BOTH LIE DOWN IN PEACE AND SLEEP: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety."

SO, WE HAVE **PEACE WITH GOD**, AND THE **PEACE OF GOD**. DOES IT STOP THERE?

NO! THE NT SPEAKS ALSO ABOUT

PEACE WHICH IS MULTIPLIED - 2 PET. 1:2 – THROUGH KNOWLEDGE.

Do you remember what we preached just 3 weeks ago – from 2 Peter?

II PET. 1:2 "Grace and **PEACE BE MULTIPLIED** UNTO YOU THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and of **Jesus our Lord**," (εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν -epignōsis - **epiginosko** – experiential knowledge.)

PAUL PRAYED FOR THE COLOSSIANS THAT:

Colossians 1:9 . . . they might be **FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL WISDOM AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING**; That they might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and **increasing in the knowledge of God**;" εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν -epignōsis – both verses.

WE CAN ENJOY: -

GREAT PEACE - PSALM 119:165 - THROUGH LOVING THE WORD "Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing shall offend them."

THROUGH TRUSTING GOD WE CAN ENJOY -- **PERFECT PEACE**

ISAIAH 26:3

"thou wilt keep him in **perfect peace** whose mind is **stayed** on thee because he trusteth in thee." (**Stayed Upon Jehovah – Francis Havergal – yesterday Mt. Springs**)

THROUGH SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL WE CAN ENJOY **PEACE WHICH RULES IN OUR LIVES**

Colossians 3:15

And LET the **PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

THROUGH OBEDIENCE WE HAVE ACCESS TO - PEACE WHICH ABIDES -

Philippians 4:9 -

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the **GOD OF PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU.**

NO GOD = NO PEACE, BUT, IF YOU KNOW GOD, THEN YOU WILL KNOW PEACE!

THE MESSAGE OF THE RESURRECTED CHRIST WAS AGAIN AND AGAIN THE MESSAGE OF PEACE!

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **PEACE BE UNTO YOU.**

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, **PEACE BE UNTO YOU.**

MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF ALL AGES:

Revelation 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: **GRACE be unto you, AND PEACE,** from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Isaiah 9:6 . . . PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.**

THE VERY MESSAGE THAT WE PREACH IS A "**GOSPEL OF PEACE**"

Romans 10:15 . . . as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that **PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE,** and bring glad tidings of good things!"

"In some ancient castles, wells were used to supply water to the garrison in time of war when the aqueducts bringing water from the outside were at the mercy of the enemy. These flowing fountains within the walls were lifesavers because they were **BEYOND THE POWER OF THE ENEMY.**

So, too, the security offered by the world depends on one's surroundings; in times of trouble its sources are cut off like the water from the streams which usually help to quench the thirst of those besieged in the castles.

The PEACE THAT JESUS GIVES HOWEVER, is like a spring within, both precious and abundant in the hours of deepest need.db 3-20-72.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

THE SOURCE OF OUR PEACE IN THIS LIFE IS NOT FROM THE CISTERNS OF THIS WORLD, BUT FROM THE "LIVING WATERS" THAT CHRIST HAS GIVEN IN ABUNDANCE TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE ON HIM.

“Union with Christ, and abiding in Christ, what do they not secure? **Peace, perfect peace**; rest, constant rest; answers to all our prayers; victory over all our foes; pure, holy living; ever-increasing fruitfulness. All, all of these are the glad outcome of abiding in Christ.”

– James Hudson Taylor, *Union And Communion or Thoughts on the Song of Solomon*