

Introduction

Last week we studied the righteousness of God. It's nothing we earn, or deserve, but it is a gift of God. We are righteous in Christ.

Scripture

- **Romans 14:17-18**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, **peace** and joy in the Holy Spirit, ¹⁸ because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

As we begin to see ourselves in right standing with God, we will move forward in power in every area of our life. Paul is describing the kingdom of God in this verse:

Scripture

- **Luke 17:20-21** (AMP)

²⁰Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied to them by saying, The kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display, ²¹Nor will people say, Look! Here [it is]! or, See, [it is] there! For behold, the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts] and among you [surrounding you].

It's not a kingdom that we see or touch. It's not a place, or a church, or an organization. It is not a democracy. This kingdom is in the hearts and souls of man.

The ruler of this Kingdom is Jesus Christ and He wants to rule and reign on the throne of our hearts.

Scripture

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Even with the disciples being with Jesus for three and a half years, notice here they said "are you going to restore the Kingdom of Israel." The disciples have not had a transformation of their wineskins or, at this stage, the Holy Spirit had not been imparted into them, so they are still looking for outward manifestations instead of realising the kingdom of God is within us.

Scripture

- **Ephesians 1:22-23**

"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

This week we are going to have a look at peace which comes out of an understanding of our righteousness.

The peace of God being another aspect of the Kingdom of God is indeed interesting, because when we are in right standing with God, we are doing what's right and letting Him rule in our hearts, there is a peace that flows out of our hearts. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The whole aspect of the kingdom is to rule and reign in the hearts of man.

Scripture

- **Colossians 3:15**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

There is a calmness in our hearts, even if the outside circumstances don't look peaceful.

We can come into agreement with the King and trust His Word to be true. If He is truly reigning in my life, there will be a manifestation of Gods Peace.

PEACE: Wholeness and well being in all areas of our life

Jesus is called Prince of Peace.

For us to be truly effective God cannot flow through a confused, troubled heart. That is why we need to understand that if we sin there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Living in denial and not living a life of repentance, trying to cover things up will only steal our peace, which hardens our wineskin, which restricts the flow of all the good things that God has deposited in our hearts.

Peace only comes from a revelation of who I am in the Kingdom.

As I surrender and walk in obedience, to His word and with an understanding of the victory of Calvary and stop living on the cross and before the cross, but living a life of the completed work of the cross, truly the Prince of Peace will reign in my heart.

There is so much teaching out there that says if I sin I am out of Gods will and out of His fellowship, I am unrighteous, which all leads to confusion and lack of peace in the heart.

Jesus said He is the way, the life and the truth.

A true understanding of the Father and what He thinks of you and how he aches for you to come into His presence and have fellowship with Him, because of the love He has for you will bring peace in our hearts, which passes all understanding.

Scripture

- **Romans 8:31-32**

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,^d neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³² neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Just like Jesus on the boat, storms all around Him, but he slept. He was not anxious, no fear, because He had an understanding of His relationship with the Father.

No servant is greater than his master, in all we do, we must be led by what the Word of God says. If it was alright for Jesus to draw aside and have fellowship with the Father, then that should be a part of our lifestyle.

Out of His presence comes peace and fullness of joy and a true understanding of our place in the Kingdom.

A lack of understanding of righteousness causes us not to run into God for forgiveness, but to go away and beat ourselves up! But Paul says you will have peace in the Holy Ghost and one of the Holy Spirits jobs is to bring us into the Presence of God.

If Paul can write and be convinced:

- 1) That neither death nor life
- 2) Neither angels nor demons
- 3) Neither present nor future
- 4) Nor any powers
- 5) Neither Height nor depth
- 6) Nor anything else in all creation

Can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, what an incredible statement!

So no matter what I am going through, no matter what I am struggling with, the love of God brings peace to my heart, it is always there for me, all I have to do is come to a revelation of His love, of His righteousness, then the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will rule and reign in my heart.