

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 2:13-18**.
- B. This is the third in a series of 9 studies in the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit. Today's lesson deals with *peace*.
- C. Previous lessons have dealt with the topics of love and joy.

I. DEFINITION AND THREE KINDS OF PEACE.

- A. James MacGregor defines peace as, "the felt absence of disturbance, the felt presence of harmony."
- B. We pray for world peace, peace of mind and a "peace" of pie!
- C. As there are three basic relationships also there are kinds of peace:
 - 1. Peace with God.
 - 2. Peace with one another.
 - 3. Peace with self.

II. PEACE WITH GOD.

- A. All three kinds of peace are important and should be desired in increasing amounts. However, peace with God is essential to salvation. One may enjoy a certain peace with others, and some peace with self, but without peace with God all is lost in eternity.
- B. Scriptures on having peace with God:
 - 1. God is a god of peace (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; 1Th. 5:23).
(Rom 15:33) Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
(Rom 16:20) And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
(1Th 5:23) Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. We have peace with God by JC (Rom. 5:1).
Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 - 3. JC is our peace towards God (Eph. 2:14-15).
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, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,
 - 4. The gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15).
and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;
 - 5. Preaching peace (to the Gentiles) in Acts 10:36.
"The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)--
 - 6. Paul wishes grace and peace to both Jewish and gentile Xians (Rom. 1:7).
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.
- C. Sin has broken the fellowship and peace man and God once enjoyed. By JC we can know have those two things restored.

III. PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

- A. After taking care of the vertical arrangement (with God), man needs to work on the horizontal arrangement with his fellow man. Because of the sins and shortcomings of ourselves and others this relationship is in constant need of work.
- B. Scriptures on having peace with one another:
 - 1. Peace on earth peace, good will towards men (Lk. 2:14).
"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."
 - 2. Jesus leaves us with His peace (Jn. 14:27; 16:33).

(Jn 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 heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

(Jn 16:33) "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

3. Blessed are the peacemakers (Mt. 5:9).

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

4. Be at peace with all men (Rom. 12:18).

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

5. The peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:7).

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

6. Seek peace and pursue it (1Pet. 3:11).

"AND LET HIM TURN AWAY FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT."

- C. It seems that Rom. 12:18 is the key verse. We, as far as it depends on us, are to live at peace with all men. Sometimes it can't be done, but make sure that it is not our fault that it is not so.

IV. PEACE WITH SELF.

- A. The third relationship which can be and should be characterized by peace is that of the relationship to self. To be at peace with one's self is not found in yoga, or TM, but with the right relationship with the truth.

- B. Scriptures on having peace with self:

1. Peace be with you (Jn. 20:26).

And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came[^], the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you."

2. Let the peace of God rule (umpire) in your heart (Col. 3:15).

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

3. Be found in peace, spotless (2Pet. 3:14).

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,

- C. Because of the forgiveness that we have in JC we must learn to forgive ourselves, learn to like ourselves, and enjoy the peace that can only come from God.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Peace is to be enjoyed because of what Jesus has done for us. He gives us peace with God through His blood.
- B. Peace with others comes from doing all we can to keep peace.
- C. Peace with ourselves comes by knowing what we have in Jesus Christ.
- D. The next study will focus in on patience.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.