



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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BUILDING BLOCKS OF FAITH PART 1 : "Three Little Words"

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Study 3 : "PEACE"

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

"Building Blocks of Faith" is a Series of basic Christian beliefs. The studies will be kept as simple as possible. Those who are considering following Jesus will have the main issues of the Christian Faith explained. New Christians will gain an insight into what God has done in their life ... and why. Older Christians need to revisit the basics from time to time in order to check that what they are building is consistent with the blueprints!

TODAY'S STUDY

The first part of the Series looks at three very simple words - small containers for principles that establish both God's dealings with us & our relationships with others - GRACE, MERCY, & PEACE.

Today's Study is on the third of these "Little Words" - Peace

A. PEACE WITH GOD?

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God" Rom5:1

The Scriptures paint a clear picture of a state of warfare existing between God and ourselves - making it clear that the hostility is on our side, not God's :

... we were God's enemies ... Rom5:10

the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law. Rom8:7-8)

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. Col1:21

The last two verses give the reason for this enmity on our part - our active REBELLION against God.

God has acted to END the state of warfare :

When we were God's enemies we were reconciled to him through the death of his son.

Rom5:10

Now he has reconciled you through Christ's physical body, through death, to present you holy in his sight Col1:22

A common definition of "Peace" is "the absence of warfare" also " the imposition of terms by the victor on the vanquished" Following these ideas, not only has peace with God been DECLARED, it has also been IMPOSED on God's terms :

How do we achieve peace with God? By accepting it as the free GIFT of God and not attempting to BARGAIN for it on our own terms.

"I am the way the truth & the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
Jn 14:6

How do we "come to the Father through Jesus"?

ACCEPT the free gift of forgiveness

COMMIT our lives to him in response

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting our sins against us." 2Cor5:19

"Christ's love compels us those who live should no longer live for themselves
but for him who died for them and was raised again." 2Cor5:14-15

B. THE PEACE OF GOD.

The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Php4:7

The context of this verse recognises God's:

PRESENCE The Lord is near Php4:5b

PROVISION Do not be anxious about anything ... by prayer and petition,
present your requests to God Php4:6

(Note: Paul is deliberately echoing Matthew 6:25-31 here and just assuming that God will supply our needs. See also Php4:10-13)

The Peace of God is :

Present in spite of CIRCUMSTANCES (2Cor4:7-9)

Based on the CERTAINTIES of eternity (2Cor4:13-14, 16-17; 2Cor5:4-5)

A direct GIFT to us from Jesus :

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

C. WORKING FOR PEACE

"Seek peace and pursue it." Ps34:14

"Blessed are the peacemakers" Mat5:9

As for Grace and Mercy, and now for Peace, what we have received from God in abundance is to characterise our lives and flow onto others in order to enrich theirs.

NOTE : The Hebrew concept of peace is not just the absence of distress, but the positive attributes of "wholeness" and "well-being".