

Continuing in the Word, "Christ is Our Peace", Ephesians 2:14-16.

Christ is our peace! How wonderful that is! He is our peace with God, and our peace with each other. Apart from Christ true peace can't to be found. We must be reconciled to God, and if we're not, any peace we may have will be fleeting at best, and an illusion that won't hold up in this life or in the life to come.

Isaiah 26:3 says, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." There is perfect peace to be had! Doesn't that sound wonderful? You might say, "Yes, we'll have perfect peace in heaven. We look forward to that." But it's not just for then. It's for here and now as well. The verse says God *keeps us* in perfect peace, not "He will one day give us perfect peace" though that is ours to look forward to as well.

We need to be careful in our understanding of this peace. The idea isn't that we trust God and He will give us peaceful circumstances. The idea is that we trust in God and He gives perfect peace *in the midst of* and *in spite of* the circumstances. How can that be? It's because He Himself is our peace. Because of the peace Christ brings we have peace no matter what. Nothing can take away the peace we have with God through Jesus Christ.

I long for peaceful circumstances. Sometimes that desire has grown into an idol of my heart. By that I mean that I've wanted peaceful circumstances more than anything else. But we're to want God more than anything else, and not just to get what we want out of Him, like peaceful circumstances. As we give up every other desire for the pursuit of Him, what do we find? Peace. The offer of peace that the Bible confronts us with is not one of peaceful circumstances here and now. It's far better than that. It's peace regardless of circumstances.

Peace will be fully realized in heaven. There we will have perfectly peaceful circumstances and perfectly peaceful feelings. But there is peace to be had now that also guarantees our peace then. This peace is had through a restored relationship with God. As it says in Isaiah 26:3, there is perfect peace for those whose mind is stayed on God. To be stayed on God is to be sustained by Him, resting on Him, supported by Him. This being sustained by God comes in trusting God.

So it is on God that we need to rely for all peace and security. No matter what your circumstances may be, no matter what you are facing and going through, look to Him. Through faith in Jesus Christ you have peace with God and will find that perfect peace as you look to and rely on Him.

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