

Let's Visit

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Christ's Peace and Our Worries

Go with me to an upper room in the city of Jerusalem. Jesus has eaten the Passover with his disciples. He has washed their feet, giving them a lesson in humility and service. He has told them the badge of discipleship is their love for one another. Then he told them he is going away, but he will be preparing a place for them. Then, John records these words of Jesus in John 14:27, "*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you.*"

This was Christ's last will and testament, it was His only legacy. Being the poorest of the poor, He had nowhere to lay his head. He had nothing else to leave. He had no material possessions to divide among the men He loved. There were no stocks, no bonds, no land and no cattle. Jesus left to them the one thing which was in His power to give. He gave His peace. Yet, could Jesus possibly have given them a more priceless possession than that? Anytime the people of God assemble, there are some who are needing more than anything else to learn the secret of a true serenity. In pews all over this land today, there are hearts breaking because they lack this very thing Jesus is so eager to give.

Part of the blame for the shortage of serenity which is characteristic of life in the 21st century must be laid at the door of this age we are living in. With the constant assaults on religion and traditional values, ours is not a tranquil world. It comes then as no surprise that more people than ever before are high strung, nervously irritable and lacking in repose. The general insecurity of the present days registers not only politically and economically, the toll it takes emotionally and mentally is no less serious. People today are carrying many burdens, heavy burdens. Can peace come easily to a man out of work about to lose his home? Can it come easily

to his wife as she tries to make ends meet? Can peace come easily to tired folk overdriven almost to the breaking point? Can it come to lonely souls who feel that this bustling world does not need them nor want them and that they are not use at all to any one? The age in which we are living must accept much of the responsibility for strained faces and lives that have lost their peace.

But this age and time we live in cannot shoulder all of the blame. The real trouble lies deeper. We must look into our own hearts. We must explore the causes of our own restless moods and feelings. We must talk to our soul about that sense of strain. Why do we grow irritable? Why do our nerves get on edge so that we say things we regret the moment we say them? Why do we try to cross bridges before we ever get to them? Why do we find it difficult to relax? Why are there those days when nothing seems to go right? Those days when work is a burden, people are exasperating and life is all worry and fret?

Do we blame the world for that? Do we blame Washington? The trouble is no doubt with ourselves. It is inside us. We lack the peace of Jesus Christ.

Do we have a longing for peace? Does the idea of having peace appeal to us? I don't mean the peace of lethargic ease or of a safe and sheltered life.

(Continued on page 2)

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m.

Gathered Here and There

Christ's Peace & Our Worries— continued from page 1

Nor do I mean the peace of the emotionless Stoic. I mean the peace that stands sentinel at the gateway of the soul. The peace that confronts all manner of difficult things with steady eyes. The peace that holds the heart serene through crowded days, through overwork, and all the criticisms of men. I mean the peace that Paul talks of in Philippians 4:7 and the peace that Jesus promises.

Jesus says, "My peace I give unto you." Do you ever in those Galilean days see Him irritated? You see His righteous indignation aroused in the temple. You see that he did not suffer with injustice. Yet, look at the calmness of his nature.

Think of what Jesus had to put up with. Could we have endured it and remained calm? The continual intrusions on his privacy, no rest often from dawn to dark, inconsiderate people breaking on his hours of quiet, the burden of sharing every hurting heart's sin and sorrows. Yet, on the face of Jesus there is no trace of nerves.

Then look at his own disciples. Their nerves sometimes gave way. There was the Samaritan village that was rude and inhospitable and John wanted to bring fire down on them from heaven. There was the day a crowd of 5,000 followed them to their secret retreat in the wilderness and the disciples said, "send them away". Yet, Jesus said, "they need not depart".

The peace of Jesus is not some far off dream. It is actually within our reach. To us, those of us who are agitated, fretful and worried, Jesus says, "My peace I give you."

You see, this peace of Jesus is the peace of adequate resources. Few things are as wearing to the nerves as to face life with deficient spiritual resources. Consciousness of inadequate resources can give us sleepless nights. It weighs us down until we are utterly miserable. It keeps us perpetually strained. But there was nothing of that with Jesus. He moved from one task to another without halting or haste. He never had that haggard look of one who has reached his limit. The peace of Jesus was the peace of a supreme adequacy for life. Jesus can give that to us.

Jesus can give us resources for every duty life lays before us. He can give us resources to face the responsibilities we want to run away from.

Resources for the crowded days when the pressure of work becomes a nightmare. Resources for hours of crisis that we all must face. The peace of Jesus is the peace of a disciplined life, the peace of a clean heart and the peace of fellowship with God.

When we surrender our will to the will of Jesus this peace can be ours. It involves being obedient to the call of the gospel and living the kind of life that Jesus wants us to live. That will bring us into daily fellowship with God. Having daily fellowship with God through Jesus is to have found a peace which nothing in life can ever take away.

Life may sometimes prove harsh and difficult. Life may often deny our dreams and half starve our hopes. However, in Jesus Christ we can find peace.

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On The Lighter Side.....



AND JUST WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT THE CHURCH HAS A PROBLEM WITH BACKBITING?



Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let us see what we are made of.

C. H. Spurgeon

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

We extend our sympathy to the family of Charles Paul Hughes. His services were conducted on Saturday at Watson and Sons Funeral Home. He was Martha Bradshaw's cousin.

The Church and I

The church is a feeding place of the soul. It is a place of fellowship, overcoming the perils of loneliness. It is a place of spiritual reminder, refreshing consecration and quickening love. It is a place where hearts are warmed, where the bond of friendship is made stronger, where the cares of this world are forgotten, where the soul loses itself in the Eternal God. It is a dynamic of new power. In Holy Writ it is said, "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength." When we wait at Jesus' feet, in the spirit of humble devotion, human weakness is replaced with divine strength.

Said some devout soul: "The church is the home of my soul, the altar of my devotion, the hearth of my faith, the center of my affection and the foretastes of heaven. It claims the first place in my heart, the highest place in my activities, and its unity, peace and progress concerns my life in this world and that which is to come. I owe it my zeal, my benevolence and my prayers. When I neglect its services I injure its good name, I lessen its power, I discourage its members and I chill my own soul."

Jesus died for the church, it becomes our privilege to live for the church. God grant that we may do this to the fullest measure of our life, unhindered by the spirit of selfishness or sin in any form. Like all precious plants, the church does not grow and thrive of its own accord. It is to be cared for and cultivated. My dear brother and sister in the Lord, may we not neglect the meetings of the church. When we neglect the church, we neglect ourselves and endanger the salvation of the soul.

-Frank L. Cox

Upcoming Events

Friends and family Day
September 8, 2019

FOR THE PANTRY—Jelly

Our church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Anne Burson, Lee Ola Eaves, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

Jacob Benton (friend of Ann Burson) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden's brother) **Allison Harbison**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Glynn McCleod** (brother-in-law to LaJuan Baugh, Sherry Burgay and Trish Lout) **Mitchell McCleod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in-law) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Winston Smith** (Thelma Hinton's brother) **Curtis Turner** (Norma Perkins Cousin) **Norman Turner** (Norma Perkins father) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **Janice Williams**.

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Denise Cox** (member at Joaquin) **Laura Cuzzi** (Ann Burson's niece) **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Reita Doty** (friend Ann Burson) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem Morrison**, **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler's daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw**. (Gene and Martha's son) in Iraq.



Across The Preacher's Desk

If you remember from Paul's letter to the church at Rome, he had a burning desire to preach the gospel in the Capital city. In Acts 27 we find Paul on his way to Rome, yet he is going as a prisoner. While there, he would have great success and members of Caesar's household would be converted.

However, the voyage to Rome was not without incident. A great storm occurred which threatened to tear the ship in pieces. The crew struggled to keep the ship afloat. They lightened the load by throwing everything overboard that was expendable. They went for days upon days not being able to eat.

Yet, in the midst of it all, Paul stood upon the deck of the ship and told them to be of good cheer. He did not tell them to be of good cheer because of the seaworthiness of the vessel. They were not to be of good cheer because of the experience and dedication of the crew. They were to be of good cheer because the Lord had promised Paul that there would be no loss of life. Paul said, "Be of good cheer, for I believe God."

The faith that sustained Paul on that voyage and in that storm can sustain us in the storms of life. Whatever storm may be blowing through our lives, we can be of good cheer, for "we believe God". Like the words of that old familiar song, "Be not dismayed, whet-er be tide, God will take care of you", and He will.

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**