

In coming to the final verse of our Savior's Upper room Discourse, let me say a few things by way of introduction—(1) this verse serves as a closing bookend to the entire sermon. If you recall our Savior began this discourse with a similar statement in 14:1—"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." Thus, He begins and ends with a similar purpose—to provide His disciples peace and comfort in a troubled world.

(2) This verse is a summary of the entire discourse—that is, within v33, we find the majority of chapters 14-16, in summary form—our Savior is leaving His beloved disciples, and though they would endure much conflict and opposition, He would overcome their enemies through the cross, return to the Father, send His Spirit into their hearts, and give them peace in the midst of great tribulation. This is largely the very essence of this entire sermon (chs.14-16).

(3) This verse serves as a climax to the entire discourse—v33 is not only a bookend and summary, but also the pinnacle of the entire sermon—there is a sense in which everything else has led to it—it's the inspired application to our Savior's three chapter sermon. It's for this reason, it has served as a favorite text among God's people for the past two-thousand years.

- I. Peace in Christ
- II. Tribulation in the World
- III. Victory over the World

I. Peace in Christ

1. Our Savior is leaving His beloved disciples in a world of tribulation—He leaves them with an amazing promise—"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace..."
2. [1] What is peace—most of you are familiar with the distinction between "peace with God" and "the peace of God"...
3. To have "peace with God" is to have all enmity between you and God removed—where there was hostility there is no peace...
4. To have "the peace of God" refers to the inward and subjective realization of that fact within the heart or soul...
5. Thus, the peace of God is the removal of all hostility within the heart—it's the calmness of the heart or soul...
6. For example—think of an ocean in the midst of a severe storm—the water is being seriously tossed and churned...
7. But then, think of that same water a few days later after the storm ends—the water is now smooth without a ripple...
8. Our hearts become like that stormy sea when fear and fretting get into our hearts, and tossed and churn our souls...
9. But, when the peace of God enters the hearts, they become calm and free from the winds and waves of the soul...
10. Thus, necessary to true peace are two things—[a] the absence of any turmoil or agitation of soul (or heart)...
11. [b] The presence of calm and quiet—it isn't merely the absence of something, but it's also the presence of calm...
12. Mk.4:39—"Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Peace, be still! And the wind ceased and there was a great calm..."
13. Notice—the cessation of wind and wave, and the presence of calm—thus, what was true of the sea is true of the heart...
14. The storms of unrest, carnal fear, and turbulence are ended, and, calm, rest, quiet, and assurance are obtained (simply put—the storm is ended and peace is obtained)...

15. Now—let me simply say before we move on—this inner peace of God, various in its intensity and strength...
16. While the peace we have with God never lessens or strengthens, the peace we have from God does increase or decrease...
17. [2] Where is peace found—"that in Me you may have peace"—true and Christian peace is only found in Christ...
18. This of course refers to our union with Christ—we only find peace in union with Christ as our Savior and Refuge...
19. Perhaps, I can illustrate it this way—Christ is the Ark in which Noah and his family, found peace and safety...
20. Although all around them, outside of the Ark, there were storms and chaos, within the Ark there was peace and safety...
21. Thus, our Savior is teaching that peace of God is found only in Him, and is experienced to the degree we abide in Him...
22. Thus, this peace is enjoyed not merely by being in Christ, but by abiding in Christ, by fellowshiping with Christ...
23. It's for this reason, while every Christian is equally "in Christ" not every Christian equally enjoys the peace of Christ...
24. Why is that—well, there are many reasons, but let me suggest one—not every Christian has the same degree of fellowship or communion with Christ...
25. The more we abide in His love—that is, the more we fellowship with Him and bask in His love, the more peace we will have...
26. [3] How is peace obtained—"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace"—by "these things" is meant the entire discourse (and by inference the entire word of God)..
27. I don't deny that our Savior was specifically referring to the previous three chapters—what we've called the Upper Room Discourse...
28. These words were specifically designed to give them peace and comfort in the midst of this troubling world...
29. But what is true of these three chapters in the specific and narrow sense, is also true of Scripture in the broad sense...
30. That is—the word of Christ, considered in the broad sense to include the OT and NT, gives peace to our hearts...
31. [a] All Scripture gives peace—that is, all kinds of Scripture, but especially the promises give peace to the soul...
32. For example—just think back to what our Savior said in these chapters—they are filled with many promises...
33. In fact, if we were to skim through these chapters, we would find at least five great promises—He promised them heaven, the manifestation of His love, the gift of His Spirit, grace to perform great works, and answered prayer...
34. Now, I am sure there are more promises than these in chapters 14-16, but I suggest these are 5 major promises...
35. Thus, while all Scripture, when rightly understood and believed gives peace, peace esp comes from the promises...
36. [b] All Scripture gives peace as it leads to Christ—that is, all Scripture ultimately leads to Christ, in whom is peace...
37. The reason why Scripture gives peace, is because Scripture is Christ's word—it brings or leads us to Christ...
38. 2Cor.1:20—"For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us..."
39. It's through the word, and especially the promises that we find peace, and these promises are all fulfilled in Him...
40. [c] All Scripture gives peace as it is believed and applied to the heart—that is, Scripture must be personally assimilated...

41. Scripture will not give us peace if we merely skim through it, without humbly and believingly applying it to our hearts...
42. The peace of God is the result of believing and knowing we have peace with God—the two are necessarily related...
43. I fear that many Christians fail to enjoy the peace of Christ, because they simply fail to personally apply the promises...
44. Jn.20:19—"Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, Peace *be* with you (v26)..."
45. (i) When He came—"on the first day of the week" (ii) who He came to—His fearful disciples, (iii) why He came—to give peace...

II. Tribulation in the World

1. CHS—"The believer is in two places, and he lives two lives. In the text there are two places spoken of, 'in Me', and 'in the world'..."
2. We are in Christ by faith all the while remaining in this troublesome world—we are in Christ while in the world...
3. By "world" our Savior refers to this fallen and evil world, filled with the effects of the fall, and Christ-hating sinners...
4. The Greek word rendered "tribulation" literally refers to "afflictions," "troubles," and "distress" of various forms...
5. It's a broad term that includes suffering and anguish of all sorts—I suggest He chose this broad word on purpose...
6. Thus, I want to collect all of these various troubles, into two categories—troubles known by all men, and troubles known by Christians...
7. [1] Troubles known by all men—Christians are not exempt from the everyday struggles of life in a fallen world...
8. Christians get sick, have loved ones die, lose their jobs, and have their cars break down just as other men do...
9. These are generic troubles endured by all men regardless if they are Christian, who live together in a fallen world...
10. [2] Troubles known by Christians—I suggest this is more likely what our Savior meant, in speaking to His disciples...
11. While Christians are not exempt from the struggles of this life, they face unique troubles as followers of Christ...
12. Perhaps I can put it this way—in addition to generic troubles endured by all men, Christians face specific and unique troubles...
13. [a] Persecution—this of course is what our Savior warned His apostles throughout this final or last discourse...
14. Jn.15:18—"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" 16:2—"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service..."
15. This world hates God, His Son and His word—and because of that it also hates His people who reflect Him and obey His word...
16. For example—a Christian's mother is mocked and despised by her extended family because of her domestic beliefs...
17. Or else, think of the young Christian who endures mockery and ridicule by their unsaved friends because of their views on purity...
18. Or else, think of the poor simple Christian, who's mocked and scorned, because they believe God created the world in 6 days...
19. Or else, think of the missionary, who endures all manner of opposition in bringing the gospel to unreached people groups...

20. Truly brethren, we have all felt this to some degree—"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution (2Tim.3:12)..."
21. [b] Temptation—by this I mean, the temptations and enticements that come from Satan, our flesh, and the world...
22. This world could be likened to a large stream with a strong current, and every Christian is riding up stream...
23. This current runs contrary to Christians—it opposes them at every turn—it constantly pushes against them...
24. Perhaps we could even say—this stream seeks to capsize our boat—it seeks to dash us upon its sharp rocks...
25. In this world you will have tribulation—there will be winds and waves of temptation that seek to destroy you...
26. And yet, all the while, as you abide in Christ and in His word, you will have peace and calm, safety and shelter...
27. [c] Vexation—by this I mean, the irritation and aggravation of soul, that results from living in this fallen world...
28. 2Pe.2:7—"who delivered righteous Lot, who was vexed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (that is, in Sodom)..."
29. Brethren, I know you have experienced this—at times this world feels like a heavy fog that constantly engulfs us...
30. And yet, in the midst of the fog, Christians have peace in Christ—turmoil all around us, peace and calm within us...

III. Victory over the World

1. The single Greek word translated "be of good cheer" literally means—to have confidence, courage, or deep joy...
2. It's interesting to note, that of the seven times it's used in the NT, it's always used by our beloved and gracious Savior (Matt.9:2)...
3. The reason why the disciples should be of good cheer, is then provided, v33—"I have overcome the world..."
4. That is—I am about to overcome the world by My suffering and death—as He was only a few hours from the cross...
5. Thus, when Christ speaks about overcoming the world, He largely refers to overcoming the ruler of this world...
6. This is in fulfillment to the very first promise, Gen.3:15—"He (the Seed of the woman) shall bruise your head (Satan), and you shall bruise His heel..."
7. This is the promise of God, made in the hearing of our first parents, that Christ would defeat Satan by suffering...
8. Christ would crush the head of the serpent, while having His heel bruised—He would defeat Satan through suffering...
9. Now—this promise, first given in the hearing of our first parents, is the very heart and soul of the gospel message...
10. Christ would defeat Satan, and thus, reverse all that was included in the fall—the curse and man's separation from God...
11. Thus, wrapped up in Satan's defeat is the entirety of our salvation—the reversal of the fall and all of its consequences...
12. As a result, the NT clearly teaches us, that Christ defeated Satan and secured salvation by His work on the cross...
13. Jn.12:31—"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out" 1Jn.3:8—"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil..."
14. The fact that Christ overcame Satan at the cross, does not deny that he remains a very fierce and dangerous enemy...

15. But it does mean—that he has already been defeated, the war has been won, and we have this victory in Christ...
16. 1Jn.5:4—"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith..."
17. That is—Christ overcame the world, and because our faith unites us to Christ, we too experience that victory...
18. And—it is knowing that Christ has overcome the world (and we in Him), that brings comfort and confidence...
19. [1] The world can no longer destroy us—this means, Satan and his philosophy, are no longer master over us...
20. Satan can tempt us, attack us, and hate us—but he can never indwell us, enslave us, defeat us, or destroy us...
21. Satan, his demonic army, and this evil world—can never eternally destroy a single, blood-bought, Christian...
22. Jn.17:15—"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one..."
23. That is—Christ prays that His beloved people stay in the world, and yet, be kept from Satan's devastating touch...
24. [2] The world is ruled by King Jesus—this means, even though this world is evil, Christ sits as sovereign over it...
25. Having overcome this world, our Savior returned to heaven, where He was enthroned at His Father's right hand...
26. Matt.28:18—"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth"—this means, He reigns over all...
27. [3] The world will soon be destroyed—this means, this entire world system will soon cease, and all tribulation end...
28. [a] Let us not love the world—that is, let us be mindful, that this fallen world system, is no friend of our Savior or His people...
29. [b] Let us not fear the world—that is, let us fight our spiritual battles, knowing that our enemy is already defeated...
30. For example—think back to the army of Israel, when they faced the Philistine army, that was lead by Goliath...
31. They were all terrified and confused—and then, David killed Goliath, and the children of Israel defeated the Philistines (1Sam.17:52-53)...
32. [c] Let us pity the world—that is, let us ever remember, that we were all at one time a part of this God-hating world...
33. Though Christians are not to love this world's philosophy and practice, we are to love the people of this world (we are to love our enemies)...
34. And perhaps the greatest way to love them is to tell them about Christ, our greater than David, who has defeated Satan (one greater than Goliath)...
35. We must tell them that He has overcome this world, and that in Him, there is salvation, forgiveness, and peace...