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# Sermon Notes

September 22, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## The Peace of God

Romans 5:1, Isaiah 26:3, Romans 12:18

### “... But There Is No Peace”

- ❖ People seek peace from all sorts of different sources
  - counselors
  - diplomats
  - courts
- ❖ Patrick Henry: “Gentlemen may cry, peace, peace, but there is no peace.”
- ❖ Those who follow Christ are not exempt from the turmoil that erupts as a result of life in a fallen, broken world
- ❖ Yet, peace IS possible
  - peace is one of the outstanding hallmarks of a godly person
  - God promises peace
  - peace is a Fruit of the Holy Spirit and an evidence that God is working in your life
- ❖ The Bible speaks of a 3-dimensional peace:
  - peace with God
  - peace with yourself
  - peace with others

### Peace With God

- ❖ *Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* (Rom. 5:1)
  - peace begins with God through what Jesus has done
  - prior to salvation, your relationship with God was one of alienation and animosity... a state of warfare (Colossians 1:21)
    - “peace fakers”
    - Isaiah 57:20-21
- ❖ Because of Christ, God is no longer opposed to us
  - God is FOR us
  - God is actively engaged in working all things together for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purposes (Rom 8:28, Pro 16:7)
- ❖ Are you confident that you are not living in a state of alienation with God?

### Peace With Self

- ❖ *You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.* (Isaiah 26:3)
  - lots of things break into our lives and “disturb the peace”
  - there is no shortage of discontent and unhappiness about self in the world **AND** in the church
  - on the inside, many are fragmented and falling apart
  - a longing for something more, something better

- ❖ There is much wrongheaded advice floating around about inner peace
  - much of this misguided advice springs from putting trust in human ability
  - “look inside”, “dig down deep”
- ❖ Peace with self is a gift from God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ Oftentimes, our lack of inner peace is a barometer that points to a lack of faith in God
- ❖ Two important Scriptures that help peace with self prevail
  - Philippians 4:6-7
    - the antidote to anything that conspires to disturb the peace inside you is prayer
    - give thanks that GOD is in control
  - 1 Peter 5:7-9
    - the devil slanders God to you and slanders you to God
    - don’t believe the lies of the devil

### Peace With Others

- ❖ *So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*  
(Romans 12:18)
  - strive, work at, make an effort to pursue peace
  - offer yourself in the peacemaking process in whatever ways you can
- ❖ Romans 12:19-21
  - bless others, don’t curse them
  - never avenge yourself

- ❖ Let God settle the score in His time and in His way
  - leave the dispensing of vengeance and retribution to God
  - ***Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded?*** (1 Corinthians 6:7)
- ❖ Within the church
  - we all belong to Christ
  - we all belong to each other
  - when there is discord among believers, it brings reproach on the glory of Christ and the honor of His church

### Personal Reflection

1. On a scale of 0 to 5, how would you assess your peace with God? peace with self? peace with others?
2. What, if anything is currently disturbing your peace?
3. How does the Devil slander God to you? If it applies to you, how would you complete the sentence: “If God really loved me...”
4. Talk to God about anything you’re worried about, casting your anxieties on Him.
5. If you have wronged someone or have been wronged by someone, what can you do to restore peace? What attitudes do you need to cultivate through prayer as you work through this process?