

PEACE, PERFECT PEACE

ROMANS 15:33

INTRODUCTION:

1. Through doubts, disappointments, and destinations, life can siphon happiness out of our hearts.
2. The New Testament is saturated with the idea of being at peace. (Rom. 15.33; 2 Thess. 3.16; Acts 9.31; Rom. 12.8)

I. PEACE FROM GOD

- A. **1 CORINTHIANS 1.3:** *“Grace to you and peace from God”*
- B. The peace that comes from God comes through Jesus.
 1. The first part of Romans begins with peace. (Rom. 1.7)
 2. The theme of Romans is peace. (Rom. 3.24,25)
 3. The first part ends with peace. (Rom. 11.33-36)

II. PEACE WITH GOD

- A. Peace with God is not earned.
 1. **HEBREWS 12.23:** *“just men made perfect.”*
 2. We are made perfect because *“the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin”* (1 John 1.7)
- B. Peace with God comes because of Jesus.
 1. **ROMANS 5.1,2:** Through faith we have forgiveness, peace with God, and access to His grace.
 2. All that was made possible *“through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Rom. 5.1,2)

III. PEACE OF GOD

- A. In the storms of life, we can know the peace of God.
 1. **PHILIPPIANS 4.6:** *“Be anxious for nothing, but...let your requests be made known to God.”*
 2. **PHILIPPIANS 4.7:** *“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts”*
- B. When the wind blows, Jesus offers us peace. (John 6.20)

CONCLUSION: Peace is a blessing that can be enjoyed by all those who are in Christ.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031
(702) 642-3141

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NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Be sure to watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
Facebook: Chris Pruitt

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

November 21, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

IT'S ALL ABOUT COMMUNICATION

Christians are part of the best family in the world – the family of God (Eph. 3.15). We are God’s special people (1 Pet. 2.9). As His family, we are to be a friend and desire what is best for each other (1 Pet. 1.22). We are also human beings who can sometimes struggle to get along with one another. Sometimes things are said or done that hurt our feelings. What do we do when our relationship with one who is to be our friend and brother is broken?

Jesus provides the solution that be summed up in one word: Communication. In Matthew 5, Jesus tells us that if *“your brother has something against you...first be reconciled to your brother”* (Matt. 5.23,24). Jesus presents a scenario where you have sinned against your brother. The solution: Go to your brother and work it out.

Later, Jesus presents a different scenario. In Matthew 18, Jesus tells us that *“if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault.”* (Matt. 18.15). In the first scenario, you sinned against your brother. In the second scenario, your brother sinned against you. In both cases, the solution is the same. Go to your brother and work it out.

When my relationship with a brother or sister in Christ is broken, regardless of who is at fault, my responsibility is not to wait for them to come to me. I am to go to them and make it right. Why? It isn’t because I want to make them feel guilty. It isn’t because I want to hurt them the way they hurt me. It is for the purpose of getting my brother back (Matt. 18.15). That should always be my first and only concern. CLP

THE DAY JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED

MARK 13:1,2

INTRODUCTION:

1. The city of Jerusalem and Judaism was extremely precious in the minds of the Jews. (Ps. 48.1-3; John 8.33; Phil. 3.3)
2. In Mark 13, Jesus is speaking to His apostles and predicting the end of Jerusalem and Judaism.

I. A DECLARATION

- A. **MARK 13.1:** *“Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!”*
 1. “Manner” carries the idea of something unique. Look at the unique stones of the buildings. (Luke 21.5)
 2. **MARK 13.2:** *“Do you see these great buildings...”* Lit., the large buildings. Jesus was unimpressed.
 3. **MARK 13.2:** *“Not one stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”*
- B. Where do we place our emphasis?
 1. The emphasis of our lives is to be focused on things that are spiritual. (Matt. 6.19-21; Col. 3.2)
 2. This is where Paul put his focus. (Phil. 3.7,14)

II. AN EXPLANATION

- A. The disciples asked a question about time.
 1. **MARK 13.3,4:** *“Tell us, when will these things be?”*
 2. Jesus answered by giving them a timeline of when Jerusalem will fall. (Mark 13.7,8,11,13; Matt. 24.34)
- B. The disciples asked a question about signs.
 1. **MARK 13.4:** *“And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?”*
 2. Jesus answered with what to look for that indicated that the destruction was about to happen. (Mark 13.14)
 3. The *“abomination of desolation”* referred to the coming of the Roman army. (Luke 21.20)
 4. Other signs that would be present. (Mark 13.24-27)
- C. The disciples asked a question about the end of time.
 1. **MATTHEW 24.3:** *“and of the end of the age?”*
 2. Jesus answered that it is unknown. (Mark 13.32)
 3. The conclusion: “watch” (Mark 13.35,37)

CONCLUSION: We enjoy fellowship differently. (Gal. 3.28,29)

GIVING THANKS

It is the most wonderful time of the year. Because of the pandemic, it seems that many are overwhelmed with the desire for something warm and pleasant. We are looking for something to brighten our spirits and bring a smile to our faces. Is it any wonder why so many are welcoming the holiday season with open arms. In our neighborhood, many of our neighbors were putting up Christmas lights the day after Halloween.

In just a few days, you and I will sit around the dinner table enjoying one of the biggest meals of the year and remember all the reasons why we are thankful. It brings to mind the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5.18: *“In everything give thanks.”* Contextually, verses 16-18 make up a collection of three things we are to do. First, we are to *“rejoice always”* (1 Thess. 5.16). Second, we are to *“pray without ceasing”* (1 Thess. 5.17). And third, we are to *“give thanks”* in reference to everything. Don’t miss the all inclusive nature of these three commands: *“always,” “without ceasing,”* and *“in everything.”*

If we take those commands and read them in reverse order, we are to be thankful for everything. And we are to express to God that thanksgiving in prayer. When we always keep in mind how blessed we are and express to God our appreciation for those blessings, we will be able to always rejoice.

Then we have this phrase at the end of these verses: *“for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”* (1 Thess. 5.18). To paraphrase, this is what God expects you to do. God expects us to rejoice by going to God and giving Him thanks for the way He has blessed our lives. And God expects us to do that *“always,” “without ceasing,”* and *“in everything.”*

We take so many things for granted. From the beating of our hearts, the breath in our lungs, the ability to open our eyes and begin each new day, we assume that things will continue on just as they always have (Ecc. 1.9,10). We can fill our hearts with joy remembering that everything we enjoy in life is a blessing that comes directly from God (James 1.17). Even the hardships of life can be a blessing as they remind us just how much we need God in our lives (2 Cor. 12.9,10).

On Thanksgiving and every other day, enjoy each day by *“giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Eph. 5.20). CLP