

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Jhn 14:25-31 NKJV] 25 "These things (chapter 13 and 14) I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit is teaching

The primary work of the Holy Spirit on the earth today is teaching

Teaching unbelievers their need for a savior and teaching believers to follow and obey Jesus Christ

And the reason that I point this out and I stress the significance of this is that we live in a time where there is an entire segment of the church that believes and teaches that the primary emphasis of the Holy Spirit is something far different than teaching.

The primary work of the Holy Spirit is teaching – that is we go verse by verse and chapter by chapter, book by book

I want you to know the Word of God – that is how we know Him, that is how we know who He is, that is how we know His will

And here is another important truth to understand

If you learn anything from a bible study – it was because the Holy Spirit taught it to you. Not me.

Yes, the scriptures tell us that there are those who are called and gifted to be pastor/teachers – but if you ever learn anything in your time here at CSC – it is because He taught it to you - not Me.

If I am walking in the Spirit, I am cooperating with the Spirit and the Spirit is using me to teach you – so it is the Spirit of God that is teaching you

I am the one prayerfully who is going to stay usable and humble before Him,

I am going to stay repentant,

I am going to study to show myself approved,

I am going to present myself to Him as a living sacrifice to be the best vessel that I possibly can –

but if any credit is to be given, it is to be given to God and not man.

Church, this is why any believer can do a 15 minute daily devotional in the morning, without any pastor teacher in the house, and get an amazing word from God – Why?

Because the Holy Spirit taught you – in the same way He teaches you here and at work and as you are driving up I19.

He teaches us – and He also brings things to our remembrance

That is why I have you write in your bibles and circle things and highlight things, that is why you take notes, that is why I have asked that you keep a journal

We remember things more when we write them down

Why do we write down our shopping lists?

So we don't forget the creamer and have to drive back to the store in the rain.

Why do we set reminders on our phone?

Hey, your anniversary is next month – better get something for the wife.

So we don't forget – and have to sleep on the couch

When we take notes, we mark our bibles, we memorize scripture, we do our devotionals - the Holy Spirit uses these things to bring them back to our remembrance.

Think about a time you were witnessing to someone or comforting someone and a bible verse or an illustration that you heard in one of the studies pops in your head out of nowhere – that is the Holy Spirit bringing it back to your remembrance.

One of the things that I have noticed as I get older – besides losing my hair is that my memory is not as good as it once was.

I walk over to the fridge and open and then forget why I went to the fridge in the first place

So here I have the promise that even though my mind is failing, the bible says that the Holy Spirit will continue to bring things to my remembrance.

It is not about trusting in our own memory – because that is walking in the flesh

It's about learning to trust in the Holy Spirit

Because Jesus promises us that not only will He teach us – He will bring them to our remembrance

27 "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Now, keep in mind that the disciples' world is about to be turned upside down in just a few hours.

Jesus knew that fear and anxiety had already gripped their hearts – based upon the announcements He had already made to them.

So Jesus gives them another special promise –

He promises them peace – not just any peace but a special peace, a supernatural peace

This is a kind of peace that the world is unable to offer and a peace that the world knows nothing about.

It is much different peace than the world has to offer

You see, the world doesn't offer peace –

Because to the world – peace simply means an absence of war

“we are not bombing them and they are not bombing us”

Or the world will only offer a way to escape and consider it peace.

Drugs, alcohol, or anything else that will “help” a person escape the pressures they are experiencing in life – that is what the world considers as “peace”

That is not the peace that Jesus is talking about here

He wants to give us true peace—not an artificial destructive peace

In a couple of weeks we will see Jesus tell His disciples

[Jhn 16:33 NKJV] 33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Notice Jesus didn't promise that He would give us peace by taking away all the problems and or by taking away the pain and suffering we will experience in life or by escaping them

Jesus promised to give us a supernatural peace during or in the midst of the trials, tribulations and pain that we would experience in this world.

His peace

The Bible talks about 2 different kinds of peace that are associated with God—

- peace with God;
- and the peace of God.

It is very important to understand that they are two different kinds of peace.

And here is the thing to understand church –

We cannot know the peace of God without first experiencing the peace with God.

Peace with God has to come first before we can experience the peace of God

The bible teaches us that all of us were born into this world as children of Adam— separated from God through the Fall and at enmity with Him – meaning that when we were born as rebels, at war with God – and John tells us in 3:36 that we have the wrath of God (judgment) abiding upon us

Some people might say – wait a minute – why do I need peace with God? I believe there is a God – I go to church – I try to be a good person – I have no beef with God. And as a ‘proof’ of their like or love for God they point to how ‘religious’ they are!

What they don’t realize is that religion is another form of rebellion against God – think about the religious rulers – their rebellion was driven by their devotion to their religious system – and that rebellion manifested itself in their rejection of Jesus as their Savior and King.

So, returning to the point I was making—the Bible presents a picture of God and man with their backs turned toward each other “arms folded” you might say, signifying the enmity both had for one another.

But then Jesus died on the cross for sinners—and at that moment God’s righteousness was satisfied because sin had now been paid for.

The result was that God turned and faced man (who still had his back turned toward God in stubborn rebellion), God turned toward us with His hands extended inviting us to come to Him for forgiveness and fellowship.

When a person accepts God’s offer of forgiveness and comes to Jesus for salvation—that person is forgiven—saved—and now in perfect, loving fellowship with God!

This is what Paul meant in Romans 5:1 when he said—"**Having been justified by faith [saved], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"—in other words, the 'war' is now over! No more enmity

We have laid down our hostility toward God and His commandments, surrendered our lives to Him in obedience as His servants—and He in turn has forgiven us and adopted us into His family!

That is peace with God – "salvation"

This isn't a peace we are waiting for in the future—it's a peace that is ours right now from the moment we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior.

It is also an objective peace – meaning that this peace is not based on feelings

Peace with God is based on the objective truth that we have entered into a relationship with Jesus based on faith—a relationship which is eternal and never changing!

Now, let's talk about the "peace of God"

Turn to Phil 4

[Phl 4:6-7 NKJV] 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The peace of God is a peace that only a child of God can experience— because it's an attribute of His divine nature (the fruit of the Spirit is “love, joy, **peace**...”).

The only way for a believer to experience any attribute of God in their life (all of which are exclusive to His nature)—is to have God's nature planted within them.

That only happens when they receive Jesus into their heart as Savior and the Holy Spirit moves in.

This is the peace we all want – the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding

But many Christians still worry

Many Christians still experience stress, they still experience anxiety

Many Christians still have nervous breakdowns

And sadly, there are even Christians who take their own lives

Remember how I said that “peace with God is objective” and how we have “peace with God” the moment we become a Christian.

The peace of God doesn't come into the believer automatically -

The peace of God is “subjective” meaning it comes and goes.

We could be experiencing the peace of God one moment – and then our phones go off and we receive bad news – and we begin to worry as we try to deal with the situation.

Turn your bibles with me to Col 3

[Col 3:15 NKJV] 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Did you notice the word, “let”

Paul is implying that the peace of God can rule in our hearts if we “let” it—

The peace of God can rule in our hearts if we don’t strangle it with worry by focusing our thoughts on the problem instead of on the One who can solve any problem.

Are we letting the peace of God rule in our hearts? Or are we pushing it away?

Turn your bibles with me to Isaiah 26

[Isa 26:3 NKJV] 3 You will keep [him] in perfect peace, [Whose] mind [is] stayed [on You], Because he trusts in You.

I had you make a note of perfect peace – because in the Hebrew, it reads - “You will keep him in peace, peace...” or in other words, “double peace”, “perfect peace”!

But to experience this peace we need to have our thoughts “stayed” (fixed) on God—because we trust Him and have absolute confidence in Him

That is the key church –

How do we fix our thoughts on God?

By filling our minds with His Word!

And it is then that we have the peace of God in our lives – no matter what type of circumstances we might be going through

We will have a settled confidence that God is sovereign over our situation and that all things work together for good to those who love God

28 "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming [back] to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.

We saw Jesus uses the same phrase in our study last week – when He told His disciples “If you love Me, keep[fn] My commandments.”

And I mentioned last week that He wasn't questioning their love for Him – He is technically saying, since, you love Me, keep My commandments

Here, He is saying “Since you love, you would rejoice

Jesus knows that their hearts are still troubled – despite Him promising them that He was going away and going to come back.

Imagine this scenario . . .

Mom tells her 4 year old daughter that she has to go to the grocery store.

Now, the store is really crowded & little Suzie is a handful, so mom takes her over to the neighbor's to be watched while she does her shopping.

Suzie hates being apart from her mommy & starts crying.

Her mother says, "Suzie, don't cry. I won't be gone long, and when I get back I'll bring back your favorite ice-cream."

Now, because of her immaturity – Suzi is going to continue to cry

Why? Because she could care less of the ice-cream, she just wants to be next to her mommy.

Now, the mother knows that fridge and pantry are empty – she needs to go shopping and she also knows that when she gets back, Suzi will get to have her and her favorite ice cream.

That is what Jesus is saying to His disciples -

He's leaving for now

And if the disciples would look past their own disappointment for a minute & really listen to what He was saying, they would be really excited because He is returning to the Father and that means they will be empowered by the Helper (ice-cream) so that they would be able to do the work of the kingdom.

Now, I had you make a note of where Jesus says, **My Father is greater than I.**

Now, the group that knocks on your doors on Saturday – they will point to this verse and say – look, Jesus says in your bible that He is a lesser god and not equal with Jehovah God.

That is not what Jesus is saying here –

Throughout His ministry, Jesus kept announcing that He is God.

So, when Jesus says here My Father is greater than I – He was speaking only in terms of authority

In other words, Jesus had voluntarily placed Himself under His Father's authority to fulfill the mission of the redemption of mankind—the mission the Father had sent Him to earth to accomplish.

29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

Jesus had predicted His death and resurrection many times (Mark 8:31- 32; 9:31)—and yet He is telling His disciples here in John 14:29 one more time what was coming so that when it happens, it doesn't catch them off guard, but instead causes them to believe even more.

It is going to strengthen their faith

Church - prophecy is the single greatest proof that the Bible you have in your lap this morning—is in fact the Word of the Living God!

Think back to John 2 – when Jesus flips the tables

[Jhn 2:19-22 NKJV] 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body. 22 Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Jesus was no victim, and He wanted His disciples to know and understand that—

30 "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has **nothing in Me.**

Jesus in announcing to His disciples here that His teaching time was now limited because—at this very moment Satan, “the ruler of this world” was working through Judas Iscariot to come and arrest Jesus and put Him on trial so as to convict and kill Him.

The statement that Satan has “nothing in Me” was Jesus’ way of saying that He didn’t have a fallen sin nature (passed down to Him from Adam) for Satan to work through to defeat Jesus.

Satan had no foothold in Jesus' life.

The "accuser of the brethren" had nothing to accuse Jesus of.

31 "But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.

All that Jesus said so far in chs. 13 & 14 took place within the context of the Passover meal

But now the meal is finished, & Jesus tells them their time together is quickly wrapping up.

When He said, "Arise, let us go from here," He was telling them to get ready to split.

But here is the thing church - before they actually left the room, Jesus spoke the words of the next 3 chapters to His disciples.

And in chapter 15,16,17, we get some of the most important teaching that we get from Jesus

You see, all the guidelines that He was giving His disciples and us regarding love and obedience – It is in these chapters that Jesus applied them to Him as it related to His relationship to the Father.

It was because He loved the Father that He obeyed.

Church -

Jesus does not call us to that which He doesn't Himself fulfill perfectly.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

The world today is faced with turmoil and troubles.

Everyone is seeking the peace of God.

The good news is that

Jesus is still in the business of giving peace today.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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