

Since Oct. 10, 2004
해외 한인 장로회

Church of the Lord

Apr. 28, 2024

하나님의 사랑교회

(통권 998호)



오늘의 말씀

"Peace That Surpasses Understanding"

[John 14:27]

"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.

담임목사 정 석 진

David Seokjin Chung / Senior Pastor

Cell 551.999.5358

pastor.ds.chung@gmail.com

5 Old Dock Rd.

Alpine, NJ 07620

Tel. 201.767.1004

www.churchofthelord.org

We have been sharing the Peaceful Life series of sermons for four weeks. Over the past three weeks, we have covered the following topics: #1 Enjoying a life of peace in a world of uncertainty, #2 Good habits for a life of peace, and #3 Overcoming anxiety and fear. And to-day, we will talk about #4, Peace that surpasses understanding.

What we must first do is to properly understand 'the peace of God.'

In Philippians 4:7, which was the text of our Sunday sermon two weeks ago, Paul introduced us to the peace of God.

[Phil 4:7] and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Through these words of Jesus in today's text, we can picture the difference between the concept of peace given by God and the peace given by the world. There are many conceptual differences between the peace that the world gives and the peace that God gives. Let's compare the differences between these two types of peace.

The peace that the world gives is conditional peace, whereas the peace that God gives is unconditional.

To put it simply, the peace that the world gives is a variable peace that can change depending on external conditions or situations. Since these conditions, such as economic stability, social stability, personal success, and satisfaction with those around us, are the source of peace, if these conditions become unstable, peace is also broken. It's extremely variable.

However, the peace that God gives is unconditional. Because God's peace is rooted in the unchanging God, even when external conditions change, this peace still overflows from God. This peace is a peace that is not limited by conditions.

The peace the world gives is temporary. On the other hand, the

peace that God gives is permanent.

Peace in the world is temporary and fickle. It is easily swayed by political, economic, and social changes. The tension that comes from being peaceful today and then walking on thin ice tomorrow makes people tired. As I have already said, the conditions for this peace are all based on external factors, so it is bound to be severely unstable.

But the peace that God gives is permanent. No matter how much the world changes, this peace will never be shaken. Even when waves threatened to capsize the boat at any moment, the peace of mind of Jesus, who was sleeping comfortably in the stern of the boat, never wavered. Jesus, who knew exactly the harsh pain of the cross that would come tomorrow, could not shake the peace with which he prayed, "Not my will, but yours, be done."

The peace that the world gives is peace in an extremely selfish sense. On the other hand, the peace that God gives is altruistic.

The peace that the world gives is extremely self-centered. Because peace is focused on self-satisfaction or the satisfaction of personal desires, even if it results in inconvenience to those around you, it is enough to just immerse yourself in your own world and be at peace alone. Even if you take away all the elements of peace from others, you can be comfortable alone. Because you believe you have peace that no one in the world can invade, there are many cases where you end up hurting those around you.

However, the peace that God gives is a peace that is accompanied by a life of consideration, understanding, forgiveness, and tolerance for others rather than our own selfish satisfaction. Because this peace is a peace that springs from God within the believer rather than from external conditions, this peace makes others blessed, safe, and allows us to enjoy peace together. Sacrificial love that goes beyond personal interests is the way of this peace.

We must learn that the peace of God is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of Christ in it. We do not have a world where nothing complicated or uncomfortable happens. The peace [Eirene] that the New Testament talks about is a peace that no one can understand, give, or take away, but comes only from Jesus who is in our souls.

So let us find in the Bible a way to experience peace in the midst of the pain of a life full of storms.

If the peace of God does not come from the environment, but from Christ who exists within us, we must constantly make sure that we 'abide in Christ' in our lives. Jesus spoke through the parable of the vine.

[John 15:4-5] "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. (5) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Christian faith itself is attached to Christ. Just as a branch is attached to a tree, as long as it attaches to Christ, all kinds of moisture and nutrients are supplied from the tree, nourishing the branch, and allowing it to bloom and bear fruit as time goes by.

If we cling to Christ like a vine, the peace of Christ will flow into our souls, causing the beautiful flowers of Christ to bloom and bear fruit.

A branch that is cut off from a tree has already been dying since then. When the wind blows, it rots because of the wind, when it rains, it rots because of the rain, and when the sun shines, it rots because of the sunlight. For a tree with life, any conditions are conducive to growth. When it rains, it grows because of the rain, when the sun shines, it becomes healthy because of the sunlight, and when the cold winter comes, it endures strong winds and experiences growth and maturity as the rings of the tree are added one by one. We must learn and practice clinging to Jesus.

Apostle Paul's life has not been peaceful even for a moment since he met Jesus. When we look at the storms in his life that he encountered in his life as an apostle, described in 2 Corinthians, it is shocking that one person went through them all.

He was imprisoned many times, beaten countless times, and almost died several times. He was beaten by the Jews five times with a force of 40 to one, was beaten with a stick three times, was pelted with stones, was shipwrecked three times, and even spent a day and night in the deep sea. He was in danger in the rivers, in danger in the city, in danger in the sea, in danger from robbers, in danger from his own people, in danger from the Gentiles; he was in toil; he was often sleepless, hungry, thirsty, cold, and naked (2 Corinthians 11:23~28).

If the environment is the source of peace, after Paul met Jesus, he would have lived a life filled with pain and no peace. However, Paul lived a life in which Jesus Christ, whom he met in the desert on his way to Damascus, was deep within his soul. So, even in the midst of such adversity, he devoted his life to things of greater value each day.

[II Cor 11:28~30] besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. (29) Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? (30) If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my in-firmity.

So Paul was able to write to his friends in Philippi from prison in Rome. This is what a person currently in prison said to his friends outside of prison. Even in this rough environment, Paul lived a life filled with joy that went beyond peace.

[Phil 2:17-18] Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (18) For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

[Phil 3:1] Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to

write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

[Phil 4:4-7] Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! (5) Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. (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.

Now, let us conclude this sermon with a way that allows the peace that comes from God, not the peace that the world gives, to overflow in our lives.

First, let's take a look at our passages from the past three weeks. Our passage for the first week was Isaiah 26:3.

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

These words urge us to keep a firm, unwavering faith. Looking at the environment brings only disappointment. I want us to look to God who is with us, look forward to the great things He will do, and give our faith and trust to Him.

The passage for the second week was Philippians 4:6-7, which was also quoted today. In this passage, we learned about cultivating good habits that can begin a life of peace within us. We need to practice godliness. We must develop the habit of trusting in God, the habit of prayer and meditation, the habit of resolving anger and resentment in our hearts through forgiveness, and the habit of feeling pity for others.

And last Sunday we talked about 'overcoming anxiety and fear.' We read Matthew 6:31-34 which was from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We learned about the concerns and fears of life from the disciples carrying Jesus across the sea and from the images of David standing before Goliath. We must remember Jesus who is

with us. We must bring all our problems to Him so that He can give us His peace. Do you remember the chorus lyrics of Hymn #369? We learned that because we do not bring all our problems to the Lord in prayer, we are robbed of our peace or end up living with unnecessary pain. In particular, through Job's case, we learned that it is human beings who worry even when there is nothing to worry about. And we learned that that worry actually becomes a factor that causes misfortune to overtake our lives.

Today's passage is the words Jesus gave to His disciples the night before He was crucified.

Jesus knew that his disciples would soon lose their peace. It is obvious that the shocking sight of Jesus being crucified would throw the disciples into great confusion, right? The peace that filled the heart of Jesus was a peace that surpasses our understanding.

Jesus makes it clear to us that true peace does not come from the variable elements of the environment. Jesus, who knows every single detail of the pain and suffering you will experience, even the smallest details, is now speaking of peace to the disciples who will be left behind. He even said he would give that peace he has to his disciples.

Jesus does not offer to give his disciples an ideal that he does not have. He offers to give to his disciples the peace that he himself had. We are the Lord's disciples. Now, the peace of our Lord overflows in our hearts, and we are blessed to become disciples who resemble Jesus and spread peace to many souls around us. I will conclude today's sermon by reading the passage again.

[John 14:27] "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