

THE PEACE OF GOD
An Anchor in the Storm
Isaiah 26:1-3

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In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

“We have a strong city;
God will appoint salvation *for* walls and bulwarks.
² Open the gates,
That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.
³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace,
Whose mind *is* stayed *on* *You*,
Because he trusts in *You*.

Introduction: We are living in turbulent and difficult times. There seems to be a blanket of fearfulness and anxiety in the air.

This true on a global level. It is true on a national level in my country. It is true on the local level. It is true on the personnel level.

Recently, as we turned the pages of our calendars and said good bye to an old year and hello to a new year we did so with hopes and prayers for a year of peace.

We have just celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ, whom Isaiah (9:6) called the Prince of Peace.

John 14:27, Jesus said, “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.”

John 16:33, Jesus said, “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.”

Psalms 34:14, The Psalmist said, “Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.”

Now for our text, Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You. Because he trusts in You. “

Jesus is the Prince of Peace and He has promised peace to all who will receive it.

The world may never be at peace until the Lord Jesus Christ returns. But it is true that you and I can know a peace in our hearts that passes all understanding.

The Apostle wrote about this peace in his letter to the Philippians 4:7, “And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

The phrase Paul used, "will keep your hearts," is a term which means He will build a fortress around our hearts.

Christ is our peace. Christ is our anchor in the storms of life. The Lord never promised that we would not have troubles and trials. He never promised that storms would not come to our lives. He never promised that we would not feel the hurts and pains of life.

But He did promise to give us a peace that surpasses all understanding.

Paul also wrote to the Christians at Ephesus about this peace, Ephesians 2:14, "For He (Christ) Himself is our peace."

Isaiah 26:3, "You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You."

I. What is meant by "Perfect Peace?" Isaiah 26:3

It means there is no inner turmoil. It means there is no frantic rush about life. It means we can be free of anxiety and worry and striving. It means a perfect peace and inner calm.

This peace is supernatural. It is something that only God can give.

It is not in pain pill, or sedative or a drink. These things may relieve pain and worry and anxiety for a few hours, but they cannot give a permanent calm. It is not a perfect peace.

Perfect peace is accompanied by a confidence that God is God and that He never changes.

This Perfect Peace provides a joy in the midst of unhappiness.

Joy is greater than happiness. Circumstances can affect happiness, but circumstances cannot take away your joy in the Lord.

This peace is accompanied by patience. A person who has the peace of God is a patient person who trusts in God.

II. How does a person get the peace of God?

Certain conditions have to be met. The peace of God is not given arbitrarily.

There are two parts to God's Peace. Both are very important.

1. Peace With God
2. Peace Of God

First we look at Peace with God.

A man can never have the peace of God until he is at peace with God.

This is a very important statement.

I know people who tell me they want to know the peace of God. Yet, they live in sin and rebellion against God.

The peace of God and a disobedient heart cannot co-exist.

In Proverbs 15:29, Solomon said: "The Lord is far away from the wicked."

Isaiah 48:22, "There is no peace, says the Lord, for the wicked."

Two truths must be seen:

1. For a man to be at peace with God he must first have a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

A lost person, a non-Christian, cannot have the peace of God.

A disobedient Christian cannot have the peace of God.

The peace of God comes to a person in one way and only one way: A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

The peace comes when we surrender to Jesus Christ.

2. For a man to have the peace of God he must fix his heart and mind on Jesus. This is to say that our thoughts and our affections and our devotions should be directed to Jesus.

You cannot live with your mind and heart preoccupied with everything under the sun and know the peace of God.

Your focus in life is important.

When you are in a storm.

When you are going through a time of trials and temptations.

When you are hurting from life's disappointments.

You cannot focus on the storm and find peace. You must focus on the Lord.

Simon Peter illustrates this point very well.

Matthew 14:22-33, tells us the story of Simon Peter walking on the water on the stormy sea. Verse 30 says, "When he (Peter) saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying: 'Lord save me.'"

You cannot be constantly looking at your problems and have the peace of God.

Your gaze must be on Jesus. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Paul wrote in Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

What kind of mind did Christ have? He had a mind that was always on His Father.

III. You can have the peace of God.

Put your faith and trust in Jesus and you can know the peace of God.

You can trust God with every aspect of your life.

First, Focus on Jesus.

Secondly, Focus on the word of God. Psalm 119:165, "Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble."

Fill your heart and mind with the word of God. And you can know the Peace of God