The Peace of God, which passeth all understanding (ii) (Quality: Very good)

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[0:00] Christ Jesus. This morning we looked at the peace of God as being the result of the work of the Spirit in our soul and the revelation of the work of Jesus Christ to the soul in that we are blessed with a willingness to come and to have agreement with God. For how can two walk together except they be agreed? And then in the second place the importance of knowing the fullness and blessing of reconciliation through the death, the life and death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. These two experiences having been entered into a measure are not only calculated to but also will bring about the peace of God in the soul which passeth all understanding. There can be no peace of God known whilst there is opposition to God.

There can be no peace of God known in the soul until there is a breaking down of the wall of partition, the sins shall we say, of our heart which often have been sadly responsible for making our inmost feelings feelings to indicate that we are far off from God. Now the peace of God which passeth all understanding. There is no peace that will come into this category elsewhere.

Men are continually striving for peace. Men are continually striving for peace. They find a peace which understanding can comprehend.

But it is not a lasting peace. And how soon it disintegrates. And despite many failures, yet the minds of men are so blinded that they still continue to seek for peace.

What is it? That is the worm, as it were, destroying all the efforts that have been made and the energy that has been put into those efforts in order to bring about peace in the world.

[2:51] It has been sin. It has been sin. And all that develops from sin. There can be no peace where pride is.

There can be no peace where envy is. There can be no peace where malice is. There can be no peace where the works of the flesh are constantly in the ascendancy.

Therefore, if we are to enjoy the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, the works of the flesh, the workings of the carnal mind, need and must be dealt with by the power of sovereign grace.

Nevertheless, nevertheless, we must never lose sight of this great truth that the peace of God is still present.

The peace of God, whether we see it or not, whether we enjoy it or not, is still the peace of God in its purest perfection and in its deepest richness that we may enjoy on another occasion.

[4:15] Now, the word of God tells us in this verse, the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

It is, in the latter experiences, it is, in the latter experiences, referred to, that we shall discover more implicitly and remarkably the peace of God and the manner in which it passeth all understanding.

Your hearts and minds. When we see these words in the scriptures, they often mean the heart as referring to the seat of the emotions and the mind as the seat of our thinking.

Emotions are very closely connected with our intents and sometimes we are moved one way or another in an intention by no other regulator than our emotion.

Emotions are very closely connected with our mind. Emotions are very closely connected with our mind. In the second chapter that we read, for the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

[6:00] Emotions are very closely connected with our mind. Emotions are very closely connected with our mind. So, two principal points are brought before us, the thoughts and the intents or the motions of the heart.

How we would long to keep our hearts and minds in a right course.

If we are blessed with the grace of God, then there is that in our new nature which desires to live unto God and seek those things which are above.

In our new nature, we are blessed with the heart of God. However, because our heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, we are in constant conflict and have to confess with the apostle the good that we would, we do not.

And how to perform that that we would, we find not. Is there any way whereby the victory may be ours, the victory may be gained?

[7:12] In the words before us, the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

What a blessing it is when our emotions and our intents and our thoughts are in complete agreement.

So, in that agreement, we desire to do nothing else but follow the Lord closely. Now, I am sure some of you at least will be able to speak of some occasions when you have enjoyed the peace of God in your soul.

How effective that peace has been. What love has been brought forth, drawn forth. What an influence it has had upon your emotions and also your thinking.

You are in a different world. The world about you is full of chaos. You are in a world of peace.

[8:33] And what is the world of peace? What creates peace? The apostle puts it like this.

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

We should enjoy peace. We should enjoy peace. Or shall I say peace will be the fruit of the work of God when we are blessed with both godliness and contentment.

If we have only one and not the other, be assured that the one will destroy the other, at least in any benefit.

So, if we should have godliness and be discontented, hell, that godliness is to a large extent destroyed.

[9:37] And what is the part that is destroyed? The peace of God. On the other hand, if we should be contented and yet not be blessed with godliness, here again we shall not enjoy the peace of God which passes all understanding.

There are times when it is good to hear people say that they are contented. A rare discovery, but nevertheless, sometimes it is so.

Even people without the grace of God have been known to appear to be contented.

But because they have not godliness, therefore they have not the peace of God which passes all understanding. They may say they have peace.

But it is not the peace of God. What is the difference? Well, the peace that they may speak of has reference to this life.

[10:56] And will terminate when this life terminates. But the peace of God which passes all understanding will have the promise of the life that now is, and also of that which is to come.

So, there is a great benefit to have the experience of godliness and contentment.

Again, the apostle goes on to say, in another place, I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

The state in which Paul was, were varying many. The majority, if not all of them, would be regarded as situations which could only provoke discontent.

But we have this list given to us by Paul. And yet, he knew the peace of God which passed all understanding, even under these circumstances.

[12:20] I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. And then he goes on to say, are they ministers of Christ?

I speak as a fool. I speak as if I am. And we have heard words to say I am. Yeah. I speak as believe it is my if I am king or the wise father.

I do like it. It is my boy that had not come to be preconceived, and sometimes I come margain and the days. in the deep, in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. And yet the apostle says, I've learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. How could he say this? Under these disastrous circumstances which seemed continually to make up his life, to say nothing of weariness and painfulness, watchings often and hunger and thirst and fastings often and cold and nakedness. And if this wasn't sufficient of burden, beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. And yet he had learned in whatsoever state he was, therewith to be content. And it was learned through her godliness.

And what did he see? What influenced his emotion? What influenced his thoughts? My times are in his hands. The Lord will not affect willingly, nor grieve the children of men. All these things were learned. In a painful pathway by the apostle, we should learn these things in just the same way.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus, through the power of Christ Jesus dwelling in our spirits, looking to that which is true.

[15:16] true. True. The very next verse speaks to us. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, and so on. Now going on from day to day in bitter experience, we shall find peace, we shall find peace, the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, resting upon our spirits, when we can say, it's true.

The pathway of the pilgrim is true. What do we see in the pathway of the pilgrim? Do we just see the side of bitterness, and trial, and darkness, and hardness, and rebuke?

There's something secret, sweetened all. And we are proving this is true. And when something secret is sweetened your soul, under the deepest waters, and in the deepest waters, can you join with the apostle here and say, whatsoever things are true. And it is true. There is something secret, sweetened all.

And the peace of God is in your soul, which passeth all understanding, and keepeth your heart and minds, through Christ Jesus. It is a secret which is confined to the people of God. It is not possible for anyone else to know it. That secret something. What is it? Well, it is that faith in God. That hope in God, and that love to God.

God. It is a hugging of the cross to ourselves. Being quite content, not with comfortable surroundings, though that is a blessing, but content with our present lot. Godliness. Bringing forth the fruit of the Spirit will join up with contentment. Why? Is it because we can look beyond the present seat? And see that there is a deliverance for the people of God. We may notice what the psalmist says.

[18:09] Offer unto God thanksgiving. Offer unto God thanksgiving. And pay thy vows unto the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble.

I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. And in these two verses, we have five points. Offer unto God thanksgiving.

And when will you do that? When the peace of God, which passeth all in understanding, keeps your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

What causes a person to offer unto God thanksgiving? A precious revelation and view of the covenant of God. The covenant mercies of God.

Offer unto God thanksgiving. Offer unto God thanksgiving. Offer unto God thanksgiving. And pay thy vows. So we are not to stop at offering unto God thanksgiving.

[19:40] And pay thy vows unto the Most High. What have we said in secret? What have we spoken to God? A vow, particularly in these Old Testament days, to the very solemn thing.

It was a vow made in the presence of God. It was that which was spoken in the fear of God.

We will do this. Sometimes people have said, oh, if only I'm delivered. Then I will pay my vows unto the Most High. I will declare what God has done in his mercy to my soul.

But then it doesn't finish here. And call upon me in the day of trouble. And all these are linked. But all these things will bring about in its measure and in its degree, a knowledge of the peace of God which passeth all understanding.

And call upon me in the day of trouble. Now that day of trouble, in the lives of God's people, is more or less continuous.

[21:00] Don Bunyan tells us, the Christian man is seldom long at ease. As soon as one troubles or another doth him seize. Hell, we long for the calm. Hell, we long for a little rest.

Rest. But there is a rest that remaineth to the people of God. And it remains to the people of God when they come to the end of their journey.

And that rest will be ever-lasting rest. But in the meanwhile, trouble. And yet, we're not to be so convulsed with our trouble as not to have time to offer unto God thanksgiving.

That there is a God. That there is one that hears and answers prayer. That there is one that is able and willing to bow down his ear.

Bow down thine ear. What a wonderful faith the psalmist had in saying that. Bow down thine ear. Bow down thine ear. Bow down thine ear. And what will bring the peace of God?

[22:07] Calling upon God in the day of trouble. Well, there may be some sense of peace and relief even in that. But the sense of peace will be found in this.

I will deliver thee. I will deliver thee. Now, who can deliver us sometimes? Are we not shut up to God?

None can deliver. We find, as the word of God in the book of Psalms tells us, We find that there are those that whisper in our ears, God hath forsaken him.

Persecute and take him. What a day of trouble that is. But it's in this, these five connecting links. And call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee.

God's deliverances are sure. We sometimes have to come to this point. The time appointed. The thing was certain. But the time appointed was long.

[23:20] God has not said. When he will deliver. But he has assured his church that he will deliver then. And what's more?

There's going to be a fruitful end. And thou shalt glorify me. Troubles that are truly sanctified will have this ending.

But you'll find it good, surely, to diagnose our troubles. And to see whether we did call upon God.

And God did deliver us. And then. It was God's work in our soul. Producing the peace of God. Which passes all understanding with this.

Thou shalt glorify me. And whoso offereth praise glorifies me. Now let us not forget. To sing the praises of the Most High.

[24:24] In every deliverance. However slight it is. God will not be offended whenever we offer praise unto him.

And so we may offer praise unto God. If we have a little respite today. We're not yet delivered.

The enemy is still round about. The burden still lies heavy upon the soul. But there's been some relief. Thou shalt glorify me.

And as we glorify God. We shall know something of the peace of God. Which passes all understanding. Keeping our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Keeping our hearts and minds. At peace with God. Still walking with him. Still being reconciled.

[25:29] To him and he reconciled to us. Honouring him by saying. Lord thou doest all things well. All things well.

Search all the world through. Examine and see. And what canst thou find. More suited to thee. Than this declaration in scripture expressed. That God by salvation.

Does all for the best. And so. We join with the apostles. When he says. We know. Not we hope or we think.

But we know. That all things work together for good. To them that love God. And to them. Who are the called. According to his purpose. The peace of God.

Which passeth all understanding. Will surely be raining upon our spirits. Keeping our hearts and minds. Keeping our intentions. And keeping our thoughts.

[26:29] Through Christ Jesus. Seeing that the Lord's way is perfect. Perfect. Now. Can we see the need. For.

The. Painfulness. Of our. Life. Sometimes. When I say. The painfulness of our life. I am referring more particularly.

To that which is felt in the soul. We should get plenty of sympathy. If. Our. Pains are visible. Now.

This is good. I am not speaking against that. We are thankful to have a little sympathy. Sometimes. But there. Are pains in the soul. And who can tell.

When you have got a pain in the soul. You may. Hear somebody say. You look depressed. You look cast out. But how can you describe.

[27:28] A pain in the soul. Hear. On my heart. The burden lies. How can you express it. Under these circumstances.

Shall we indeed. Have any opportunity. Of joy. Enjoying the peace of God. Which passeth all understanding. Will indeed. Our. Hearts. And minds.

Be kept. Through Christ Jesus. They are kept. Through a hope in him. The hope. That such a day.

Will come. Makes him. The captive's portion. Sweet. And we are saved. By hope. And hope. That is seen. Is not hope.

But the peace of God. Is not to be. Considered. As one of those things. Is just. Written. Into our. Catechism. The peace of God.

[28:30] Is something to be. Entered into. And enjoyed. When the peace of God. Is. So.

Blessedly true. In our experience. The old man. Is put down. But supposing. When the old man. Is not put down. Is there no peace of God. God.

The hope. That he will be. Breeds a sense of. Peace. The hope. That he will be. Yea. The hope. That he must be. The word of God.

Declares. The truth. Do we fail. In enjoying. The peace of God. Which passes. All understanding. Because.

Our minds. And our thoughts. Our hearts. And our emotions. Have not been overruled. By the precious truth. In the scripture. The scripture.

[29:30] Is so written. As to leave. Leave the people of God. In no doubt. In respect. To their standing.

We may. Be. Be. Be. Be. Buffeted. By Satan. We may. Be. Troubled.

With unbelief. But. The word of God. Gives us. Clear. Lines. Which describes. So accurately. The people of God.

In their desires. In their prayers. In the manner. Of their praises. In the acknowledgement. That they make. Unto God. In their separation.

From the world. In their cleaving. To the people of God. By this. We know. That we have passed. From death. Unto life. Because we love.

[30:27] The brethren. We got that sign. Now. And when we love. The brethren. Is that not.

An occasion. When. A little of the peace. Of God. Which passes. All understanding. Overshadows. Our minds. And though. The brethren.

In themselves. May be crooked sticks. Yet. The grace of God. Is perceived. And what. Does the grace. Of God do. When is it.

Christians all agree. And let distinctions fall. When nothing. In themselves. They see. That Christ. Is all in all. And then.

There is the peace. Of God. Which passes. All understanding. What a blessing. It is. To have this. Sight of Jesus Christ. So that we are.

[31:22] Nothing in ourselves. Nothing in our view. A willing. To creep into a corner. As it were. Lest. By our presence. We should hinder.

The glorious fullness. Of Christ. Whenever Christ. Is present. We shall know. This truth. The peace of God. Which passeth. All understanding.

What a. What a. An effect. That is. When Christ. Is within the doors. Oh. We may often. Feel it. In the sanctuary. But also.

Within the doors. Of our own heart. Oh. What a difference. What peace prevails. With Christ. Within the doors. What hinders.

Our peace. What hinders. The experience. Before us here. God. What. Well it is. All. The works of the flesh. And the presence of the old man.

[32:22] And the effects. Or rather. The efforts that he makes. To destroy. What. What damage. Does our old nature.

Do to contentment. What injury. Does it do. To godliness. What attempts. Is it continually making.

To destroy. That. Which God. Has graciously. Provided. For his people. And the peace of God. Which passeth. All understanding.

But then. As the peace of God. Is known in our souls. When we can say. That is true. So.

The peace of God. Which passeth. All understanding. Keeps our heart. And mind. Through Christ Jesus. Fixed upon Christ Jesus. Fixed upon the truth.

[33:18] Through Christ Jesus. When we find. That things are honest. Now the scriptures. Are honest. They tell a man.

A woman. A child. Exactly what they are. By nature. And they also. Tell them. Exactly what the truth. Is concerning. Of their eternal.

Salvation. They also. In the scriptures. Of truth. We find. Line by line. Honesty. Honesty.

In respect. Of what God. Will do. As well as. What he is. Able to do. And we shall also.

Find the peace of God. Ruling in our hearts. When we are fully satisfied. That all things are just. Do we think.

[34:13] The things are just. That have come. Into our lives. You know. Some of God's people. Have been sadly afflicted. And some might have come along.

And say. Well. I don't think you deserve this. Yes. But it has been known. By the grace of God. For.

Such people. To bear their humble testimony. That it is. It is just. When they can see. Whatever is upon them. Is just. Just according to God's law.

God. With this view. In front of them. He cannot do. But what is just. And must be righteous.

Still. And the peace of God. Which passeth all understanding. Rest upon your spirit. And keep your hearts and minds. Through Christ Jesus.

[35:11] You'll be quite content. With your love. Whatever it is. If you can see that God is just. And the quickened soul. Will.

Desire nothing else. But that God may be just. The spirit. Of God.

Bringing peace into the soul. Can only be known. When all things are pure. Pure. Corruption in our hearts.

Brings a lot. A lot of trouble. Disrupts our peace. But. The things that are pure. When.

The peace of God. Which passeth all understanding. Keeps our hearts. And minds. Through Christ Jesus. To the pure. All things are pure.

[36:11] And as you read. The word of God. You see. There's purity in it. And as you approach. Unto the father. Through the Lord.

Jesus Christ. You see. There is purity in him. And furthermore. As you may even. See the actions of others.

You see. That. Their motives. Are wrought by God. Sometimes. Where. Another mind in you. Will see. Just the opposite.

Don't you know. Whether a person's motives. Are right or wrong. It's written in the word of God. And we can discern. The truth of matters.

By consulting the word of God. Or shall I more properly say. Seeking that God. Will. Direct us. That we may consult the word of God.

[37:08] In the right place. And we shall find. The peace of God. In our souls. Ruling in our hearts.

Ruling in our minds. When. We see. That the things are lovely. Just read through. The song of Solomon.

Is there anything. That is more beautiful. In the whole of the scripture. What to ever things are lovely. Whatever is written in there. In that book.

In that song. Well. To the pure mind. It's lovely. Why is it lovely? Because it shows to us. The absolute unity.

Of Christ and his church. It shows to us. The depth of love. Existing between Christ and his church. It tells us. What Christ thinks of his spouse.

[38:04] And it tells us. What his spouse. The spouse thinks of Christ. They are altogether lovely. They are altogether lovely.

And some of those passages. In the song of Solomon. Have puzzled people. Sometimes. Since they are not quite sure. Whether it is Christ speaking.

Or whether it is the bride speaking. But this. Not. Need not present. A great difficulty. Because some of these passages. Would be equally.

Suitable. In the lips of both. If we come down. To the much lower play. In a simple world. Like I love you.

Would it not. Be. Just as sweet. And proper. In the mouth. Of the husband. As in the mouth. Of the wife. And therefore.

[39:02] If the Lord speaks to us. And says. I love thee well. Would it not. Equally be true. If. His bride. Said to him.

I love thee Lord. With mind and heart. Thy people. And thy ways. And it would be true. Things that are lovely.

If we come to. The description. Which is given. In the 45th Psalm. Of Christ. And his bride. Oh the peace of God. Which parteth all understanding.

Will certainly. Keep your hearts. And minds. Through great Jesus Christ. Stayed upon him. How beautiful. The description. Grace is poured.

Into thy lips. How attractive. No wonder. We read in the song of Solomon. Let him kiss. Solomon. And let him kiss me. With the kiss of his mouth.

[40:06] Thy mouth is sweet. Though art. The altogether lovely. And whenever we see. Loveliness. In the scriptures.

Whenever we see. Loveliness in Christ. Whenever we see. Loveliness in the church of Christ. And that's not impossible. There are too many people.

Looking for blemishes. In the church of Christ. That it will be your blessing. To look for. At the loveliness of the church of Christ.

That is. When Christ has covered up. All the blemishes. When Christ has covered your soul. With his righteousness. When you enjoy the blessings.

Of acceptance in the beloved. Then. You know. You'll enjoy the peace of God. Peace of God. Looking at. Another.

[41:07] In your own soul. Looking at another. Because. They're clothed. Especially if they should. Hear. Those words. And translate it to you. Transmitted to you. There are all fair. My love. There is no spot in thee. What a word that is. And the peace of God.

Which passes all understanding. Shall keep your hearts and minds. Through Christ Jesus. The matter. The lovely. Will be used. In it. Right. In it's right.

And proper. Context. Love. Love. And last of all.

In this list. That the apostle gives. Whatsoever things are of good report. Now in Isaiah. We have that scripture.

[42:03] Who hath believed our report. Who hath believed our report. The good report of salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The good report of being saved. By one that was despised. And rejected. Peace. Peace. As we sang.

And our opening hymn. By his cross. As Jesus made. The peace of God. A view of Christ on the cross. Will bring the peace of God.

Your heart. Will be broken. And. The stone. As it were. Will be taken out. When you see. Christ crucified.

Bringing peace into your soul. There. Is the man. The God man. The son of God. That brings me. Reconciliation.

[43:00] Reconciliation. Through his death. I might live. Through his death. I might have the blessings. Of pardon.

Communicated to my soul. That will bring the peace of God. Pardon. And it will pass.

It will pass all understanding. The blessing. Of the pardoned soul. Is indescribable. To feel that.

Every sin has been blotted out. Beggar's language. To describe. What it really is. And what it really means. Because there is one thing.

That it does. It brings the peace of God. Which passeth all understanding. If sin. Is the disturber of peace. The destruction of sin.

[44:00] Will be the promoter of peace. And when we search. To find our sins. Our sins. Our sins can never be found. God.

What a wonderful deathbed. That is. And surely. It must be so. With the people of God. When there is no sin. And that will be a peace.

Reached. Which will certainly pass. Your understanding. Can you envisage it? That when you come to. Lay down your head.

Your head on your pillow. For the last time. That God will appear. In all his glory. Show you. That he has put away your sins.

Smile upon you. I see the heavens open. Said Stephen. God. And. And. Jesus Christ. Sitting up. Standing. At the right hand of God.

[45:02] And he had peace. With all the stones. Round about him. He had peace in his soul. We see people sometimes.

Hear about people sometimes. In their persecute. In those persecuted lands. Undergoing dreadful things. And we may feel a deep. Sympathy for them.

But they may enjoy peace. The same peace that Stephen enjoyed. When he gave up the ghost. And what did peace do? Whilst he dismissed his spirit.

Into the hands of God. He said. Lay not this sin. To their charge. What the peace of God will do.

Our nature would make sure. That the sin was laid. To their charge. But Stephen. With the peace of God. In his heart. He said. Lay not this sin. To their charge.

[46:04] Now that of course. Is in the hand of God. But it just shows us. The enlargement of the heart. When God's peace. Flows into our heart.

And is such. That it passes. All understanding. It controlled. The heart of Stephen. It controlled his heart.

His emotion. His mind. His thoughts. He'd seen the heavens open. He had seen Jesus Christ. What does it matter?

How people. Might have disturbed our lives. Disturbed our peace. What does it matter? With Christ. Before us. Heaven opened. And that brought in the soul.

Which says. Even so come. Lord Jesus. Yea. Come quickly. Peace. Peace. Peace. Peace. Peace. Peace. Is in the soul.

[47:03] Everything. Between Christ. And the soul. Is being removed. Out of the way. Your enemies. Are left behind. Your soul. Is released.

Into everlasting. Peace. Peace. Is the element. And the environment. Of heaven. There is nothing there.

Which will disturb. Nothing there. That will try. Now what. What is the reason. For so many disturbances.

As we pass along life's journey. And yet. Still blessed. With a measure of the peace of God. Which passes all understanding. It is.

That we may. From all things. Hearted be. At the same time. Professing. Never never. Lord from thee.

[47:59] Outside of Christ. There can. There cannot be peace. Even in our best relationships. There is always a danger of disruption.

I have looked at that. Word sometimes. Perfect love. Casted out fear. Oh that we could possess that.

Perfect love. Casted out fear. Whatever. Love we have. However deep it may be. Sometimes. A little thing comes along.

Fear. Only for a brief moment. But. It's destroyed. A confidence. It's destroyed peace. Why. Sin in our heart. Has done it. But.

We look forward. To. That which we taste here. If we are the people of God. The peace of God. Which parteth all understanding.

[48:57] That shall keep our hearts and minds. Through Christ Jesus. Through life. And will land us safe above. A long eternity to spend.

In singing. God is love. God is love. May it be ours. To enjoy the peace of God. Then. Whatever troubles us.

Tell us. We shall rest content. Because. Because. We are fully persuaded. That. All things are in the hand of God.

Who is it that said. And it cometh to pass. When the Lord. Commandeth it not. Amen.