

MONDAY 10.16.23 - John 16:33

I really enjoy reading J. Vernon McGee. On the topic of peace, he shares this: "The child of God can have peace in this life because peace is found in Christ and in no other place. You won't find peace in church. You won't find peace in Christian service. Peace is found in the person of Jesus Christ. 'In the world ye shall have tribulation.' Our Lord made that very clear. There is no peace in the world, only trouble. He was right, wasn't He? But He has overcome the world! His victory is our victory!" There has been one perfect, sin-free, victorious person who walked this earth. Jesus Christ. No one else! Not you. Not me. Jesus! When we learn to identify ourselves with Him and walk more closely with Him, then we will begin to experience the peace of God in our hearts and in our lives.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10.17.23 - Philippians 4:6-7

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ.

Chances are that you are worried about something. Maybe it is a family problem, or a money problem, or a relationship problem, or a health problem. God does not want you to be worried. But how do we do that? Let's look at what God says. First, we are to pray to Him. This gets our focus off the problem and onto God. Second, we are to petition Him, "make a formal request". Ask Him to specifically deal with the problem at hand. Thirdly, acknowledge what He has already done for you. Giving thanks allows us to remember how God has been faithful in the past. If we do these things God assures us that His peace will come upon us. Remember, it becomes harder to see God when we are focused on the problem. It becomes harder to see the problem when we are focused on God.

Give your worries to God today and let Him replace them with His peace.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY - 10.18.23 - Galatians 5:22-23

When describing the fruit of the Spirit, the Greek word Paul uses for "patience" is *macrothumia*. It's a compound word: *macro* means "long" and *thumia* means "temper" or "explosion." So, to be patient means to have a long temper. It's the opposite of being short-tempered. God wants to develop within us the wonderful quality of being patient or longsuffering. God Himself is "slow to anger" (Psalm 86:15), and He expects His children to be the same. We are commanded to emulate our Lord's longsuffering. We are to "put on a heart of ... patience" (Colossians 3:12), especially toward fellow believers. One of the best ways to do that is to "bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity" (Colossians 3:13-14).

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 10.19.23 - Proverbs 14:29

"WHOEVER IS PATIENT (or slow to anger) HAS GREAT UNDERSTANDING, BUT ONE WHO IS QUICK - TEMPERED DISPLAYS FOLLY."

Solomon encourages us to weigh situations carefully and respond as the situation warrants. To be able to think before we speak, or act is a sign of great maturity and allows us to enjoy God's power in our lives. God says that a person who can control his or her anger is better and mightier than an individual who can take a whole city. (Prov. 16:32)

If you cannot control your anger, you will say and do many foolish things. A fool reacts when hardly provoked, or not provoked at all out of pure instinct and fails to gather all the facts; which leads to embarrassment and a bad reputation.

A "fool" is not necessarily a person who lacks intelligence; it's someone who ignores godly wisdom and makes ungodly choices.

How will you respond today?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY- 10.20.23 - Psalm 4:8

That great virtue which seems to hide from us, no not love, but patience. We want what we want, and we want it now. We are Americans, we can do it and do it now. Laugh if you want, but this represents the way most of us 'feel' if not think. Much of the world wrestles with love as a primarily difficult virtue, but in America it seems to be patience. 'Waiting' for God always involves an 'anticipatory' action, as if being expectant for a passenger arriving on a plane or bus. You just know they will arrive, it's only a matter of time. That is the picture of our patience for God's actions on our behalf.

With that anticipation of our victory, there is no need for anger or resentment, and certainly no need to fret in the meanwhile. Just trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not fret the evil doers, co-opting their success. What God has planned for us is so much greater!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

- Kids** CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
NURSERY (through Age 3)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
available during the 9:40 service
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
- Adults** FALL QUARTER
LOCATION: B11 with Bob Lehman
Explore the Bible - *Mark's Gospel*
LOCATION: B8-10 with David Hamilton
Bible Studies for Life (Begins Oct. 22nd)
LOCATION: B1-2 with Chris Domenico & Joel Day
Following Jesus in a Digital Age (Begins Oct. 15th)

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

- Kids** MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade)
LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
- Youth** YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade)
LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
5th–8th Grade meet downstairs
9th–12th Grade meet upstairs
- Adults** SUMMER EVENING SPEAKER
LOCATION: Worship Center

E2 FALL SMALL GROUP

Women's TUESDAY EVENING STUDY

God of Deliverance - Study in Exodus 9/5 - 11/28
in B8-10- with Denise Whitfield & Elizabeth Williams.

Men's TUESDAY EVENING STUDY

Kingdom Man - understand your position under God as well
as your position over what God has given to you.
9/5 - 10/24 in B1-2 with Mike Williams.

Women's THURSDAY MORNING STUDY

Abide -Study of the letters of 1,2,& 3 John - abide in the
truth. 9/7 - 11/30 at 9am in the Youth Activity Center.

Women's THURSDAY EVENING STUDY

Desperate for Hope - find hope in your pain. Meeting at
Kulp Church in Catawissa at 6:30 pm began 9/7.

Wednesday EVENING SMALL GROUP

Carry the Flame - Learn to obey the Spirit's direction and live
out the gospel of Jesus Christ in today's world.
Begins October 18th at 6:30pm in B8-10 with Barry Wills.

Galatians 5:22-23 ***The Fruit of Peace***

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ... peace"

You obtain the peace of God through ...

1. Proper _____ (Philippians 4:6)

The Christian life is composed of three circles. The first is the *Worry Circle* in which is "Nothing." The second is the *Prayer Circle* in which is "Everything." The third is the *Thanksgiving Circle* that must be filled with "Anything." In other words, you must be anxious for nothing, prayerful for everything, and thankful for anything.

2. Proper _____ (Philippians 4:8)


The word for "think" in Greek means to "ponder, consider, meditate." Are you occupying your mind with thoughts that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy?

Suggestions for developing a biblical mindset:

- _____ the negative _____ that
need to be swept out of your mind.
- Be _____ for the _____ of
spiritual warfare.
- _____ the Word of God.
- _____ to obey the first _____
of the Holy Spirit.

3. Proper _____ (Philippians 4:9)

Paul's stay in Philippi was relatively short. However, it was a sufficient amount of time for Paul to model the Christian life before them, and that included the secret of living one day at a time. Paul showed them how to live for God today and not worry about tomorrow.

 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



October 16th - October 20th

INTRODUCTION:

Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (*E2*) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:

Monday's and Tuesday's readings will be a follow up on Sunday's message, "*The Fruit of Peace*" with Pastor Doug Lyon. Wednesday's through Friday's devotions will help prepare us for the message on 10.22, "*The Fruit of Patience*" with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23