Peace Passing Understanding

Intro: There has never been a period in human history that is filled with as many unhappy people in the world than the present.

1. More and more people are putting their trust in psychiatrist and pills instead of God.
2. To be sure, there are going to be days that are dark and dreary.
   a. Without them there could be no triumphs.
   b. These moments must be properly used.
      i. Rom. 5:3-5 “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
      ii. Jas. 1:2-4 “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”
      iii. The Christian should realize these facts, so come what may we possess the peace that passeth understanding.
   c. Phi. 4:4-7 “4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

I. PEACE.
   A. Christ is the giver of peace.
      1. Isa. 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
      2. John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”
   B. Christians are given peace.
      1. Rom. 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”
      2. Rom. 8:6 “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”
      3. Eph. 4:3 “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
      4. Gal. 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,”

II. WHY SOME CHRISTIANS DO NOT HAVE PEACE.
   A. Their lives are not in harmony with God’s Word.
      1. New Testament Christianity is based upon the recognition of the all sufficiency of the Scriptures.
         a. God’s will for mankind is revealed there.
         b. 2 Pet. 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”
      2. When our conduct does not measure up to the Scriptures we naturally feel insecure.
      3. Thus, it is our duty to correct our erring ways.
B. It is the result of a prayerless life.
1. God has given us the privilege of talking things over with him.
2. Since God created man he knows man’s needs and aspirations; and he is vitally concerned about them.
3. 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

C. We become too self-centered.
1. There is a need for self love; cf. Mat. 22:39 “39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
2. Some expend all their affection upon themselves.
3. One of life’s major purpose is to help others.
4. Example of Jesus.
   (1) Acts 10:38 “38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”
   (2) His attitude is found in Mat. 20:28 “28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”
   b. Too often many think the world owes them a living, but the truth is we own the world a life of helpfulness.

D. The call of the world.
1. Some just have not turned their lives from sin.
   a. Like Lot’s wife, they look back to former associations.
   b. 2 Tim. 4:10 “10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica: Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”
2. Some love pleasure more than God; their minds are on earthly things.
   a. 2 Tim. 3:4 “4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”
   b. Phi. 3:19 “19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”
3. We can not be double-minded and have peace.
   a. Jam. 1:8 “8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”
   b. Jam. 3:15 “15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”

III. How To Acquire That Peace.
A. Recognize God’s grace is sufficient for us.
1. Consider Paul’s thorn; 2 Cor. 12:9 “9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
2. God will sustain us; 2 Cor. 1:3 “3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;”

B. Have a single eye devotion.
1. Mat. 6:22 “22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.” —conveys the singularity of purpose we are to have.
2. Ecc. 12:13 “13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”
3. Phi. 3:13-14 “13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
4. Too many try to be divided in their allegiance.
5. Mat. 26:39 “39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” cf. Jam. 4:15 “15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

C. Have the proper disposition of mind.
1. Pro. 23:7 “7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
2. Phi. 4:8-9 “8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”

Conclusion: Col. 1:20 “20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” Rom. 10:15 “15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”