

The Peace of God in Our Hearts

by W.H. Griffith Thomas

The peace of God rules in our hearts, giving assurance of acceptance with God and protection, and resolving every conflict and showing us God's will.

Scripture: Psalm 85:10, Isaiah 9:7, Isaiah 26:3, Isaiah 32:17, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7, Colossians 3:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Titus 1:4

Topics: "Inner Peace", "Church Unity"

Description

W.H. Griffith Thomas preaches on the importance of letting the peace of God rule in our hearts, emphasizing that this peace assures us of acceptance with God and provides protection. The peace of Christ is meant to be the arbiter in our lives, settling conflicts of thoughts and feelings, and revealing God's will. This divine peace is especially powerful in the unity of the body of Christ, the Church, where believers are called to experience and maintain peace.

Transcript

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."

(Col. 3:15).

What does the peace of Christ do? Primarily it gives assurance of acceptance with God (cf. Rom. 5:1), and the protection of God (cf. Phil. 4:7, Gr., "shall garrison," a paradoxical use of a warlike term). But here Christ's peace is to be received into the heart as the arbiter deciding the course and ruling the life (Gr., "umpire"). A similar idea and practically the same Greek word is found in 2:18, as we have seen, where the apostle is warning his readers not to let anyone judicially deprive them of their reward as though they were unworthy. This word, translated here "rule," suggests that which settles differences, especially where there is any conflict of thoughts and feelings. Under such circumstances "the peace of Christ" is to decide; and if it be asked how peace is able to do this perhaps the explanation is that just as peace with God is the result of our acceptance of Christ as Savior (Rom. 5:1), so the experience of peace in the soul, in union with Christ and through the presence of the Holy Spirit, will at once settle every difficulty, resolve every conflict, and show us what is the will of God. In this case there is a special reason for such divine peace--the essential unity of the body of Christ, the Church, and to this peace, we are told, every believer has been called. When we are one with Christ, in whom God "called us with an holy calling" (2 Tim. 1:9), and also one with Christians, "called in one body," as Paul says here, there is no question as to the great power of divine peace in our lives. We read of "government and peace" (Isa. 9:7), of "righteousness and

peace" (Ps. 85:10; cf. Isa. 32:17), and of "grace...and peace" (Titus 1:4). Until these prevail universally, however, "the God of peace himself" (1 Thess. 5:23, ASV) will be with us, keeping us meanwhile "in perfect peace" (Isa. 26:3).

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