The Peace of Christ Ruling in Your Hearts

Col 3:15

Introduction:
A. We are to let peace of Christ (peace that comes from God) rule in:
   1. The heart - bringing inner peace.
   2. The (body) church - bringing unity.
B. We are sometimes robbed of happiness by inward conflicts. (Cf. Rom. 7:13-25).
C. We need to learn some lessons about happiness (or inner peace).

Discussion:
I. Inner Peace Does Not Prove That We Are Right With God.
   A. May confuse peace of mind with peace of Christ.
      1. Think saved because they are happy.
      2. Must be happy because they are saved.
   B. May find peace in sin. (Heb. 11:25).
   C. May find peace in false religions and cults.
      1. Because really believe it to be right. (cf. Acts 23:1; 26:9).
      2. Because they are totally committed to it.
II. Inner Peace Must Be Coupled With Godliness.
   B. Godliness with contentment. (1 Tim. 6:6).
   C. Conditional peace. (Phil. 4:4-7).
      1. Rejoice in the Lord. (v.4).
      2. Reasonableness (Gentleness). (v. 5).
      3. Anxious for nothing. (v. 6).
III. Inner Peace Does Not Mean Perpetual Ecstasy.
   A. There are “unhappy” times.
      2. Paul. (Phil. 2:27,28).
      3. All of us, but they do not rule a Christian's life.
   B. There are serious times. (Phil. 4:8 Semnos = honest, noble, grave)
   C. There are “ecstatic” and light-hearted times, real happiness is deeper.
IV. Inner Peace Must Be In Spite of Some Things. (cf. 2 Cor. 4:8-18).
   A. Mistreatment. (Matt. 5:10-12; Phil. 1:12-18; Acts 5:41).
   B. Common woes of this world: Death, pain, sin, etc.
V. Inner Peace Must Be Because Of Some things.
   A. Because we have reason to rejoice.
      1. If we are saved. (cf. Acts 8:39).
      2. If we have hope. (Rom. 12:12; 1 Pet. 3:15).
      3. If we are spiritually blessed. (Eph. 1:3).
   B. Because we have learned obedience in all things. (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).
      1. Learn to “Rejoice” (Phil. 4:4).
      2. Learn to “Be content” (Phil. 4:11).
      3. Learn to put away happiness robbers. (Eph. 4:31).

Conclusion:
A. Christians do not need to be unhappy.
   1. If medical problem, then get medical help.
   2. If spiritual problem, then get spiritual help.
B. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts”. 
