

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.
 - A. The peace OF GOD, not just peace. (cf. John 14:27).
 - 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).
 - 4. Prayer. (v. 6, cf. 1 Pet. 5:7).
- III. Inner Peace Does Not Mean Perpetual Ecstasy.
 - A. There are "unhappy" times.
 - 1. Christ. (Luke 19:41; John 11:35).
 - 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".