

## **TOPIC: JEHOVAH SHALOM**

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### **SUMMARY OF MESSAGE**

Psalm 138:2

I will worship toward Your holy temple and praise Your name.

In this church and at all times, the name of God must be exalted. God has exalted His Word above His name.

There is a saying, “No God, no peace; know God, know peace.”

Today, we want to consider the next redemptive name of God, “Jehovah Shalom.”

The Hebrew word for peace is ‘whole’, ‘well’, ‘full’, ‘perfect’, ‘complete’. Peace, like love, comes from God. Apart from God, there is no peace. The peace of the world is false peace. It is completely different from the shalom of God. Peace comes from God because He is the source of peace.

In Numbers 6:24-26, we have the Aaronic blessing mentioned:

‘24The LORD bless you and keep you; 25the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; 26the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. ‘

All husbands, bless your wives everyday. All parents, bless your children. All cell leaders, bless your members.

Looking at the word ‘peace’, we want to observe the principle of first mention. We need to go back to where the Bible first mentioned it. We see this in Judges 6:1-24. (For full passage, please look it up)

The children of Israel had no peace. They were hiding in the caves for fear of the Midianites. They were also greatly impoverished. They were threshing wheat secretly in the winepress when they ought to be doing so in the fields. In this passage, an angel of the LORD came when Gideon was threshing wheat in the winepress. At the end of the time with Gideon, the LORD said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’ In verse 24, “So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD, and called it The LORD-Is-Peace...”

### **1. The importance of having the peace from God. What is peace from God?**

Peace from God - Shalom (Hebrew);

Peace from God – Eirene (Greek)

It means wholesome well-being.

We need to have and experience peace from God in all the areas of our lives; our nation, homes, families, etc. Let’s run through each of these areas.

## **A. In the Nation**

Jeremiah 16:5

For thus says the LORD: “Do not enter the house of mourning, nor go to lament or bemoan them; for I have taken away My peace from this people,” says the LORD, “lovingkindness and mercies ...”

The Bible says that God is slow to anger (Ex 34:6). In the history of Israel, with the continuing abominations, killings and sins, one day it hit the tipping point and the judgment of God came and He took the peace away. They had to face the consequences.

Jeremiah 16:4

They shall die gruesome deaths; they shall not be lamented nor shall they be buried, but they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, and their corpses shall be meat for the birds of heaven and for the beasts of the earth.

Why?

Jeremiah 2:5b

Thus says the LORD: “...your fathers ..have gone far from Me, have followed idols, and have become idolaters?

Jeremiah 2:7b

... But when you entered, you defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination.

One of the ways the land is defiled is where blood is shed upon the land. The life of every creature is in the blood. When blood is shed and the earth absorbs it, the blood calls out for vengeance. In Gen 4:10, the blood of Abel cried out from the ground. There is life in the blood. The blood speaks.

We read of the situation in Rwanda where the Hutus and Tutsi clashed with one another resulting in a genocide that killed a million people. There is no peace. In a certain country, people lived in fear. The pastors were threatened. A movement, ‘Love Manipur’ was undertaken eventually by the spiritual leaders and today, the movement is still growing and spreading.

Colossians 1:20 tells us that the Blood of Jesus reconciles. Hebrews 12:24, the Blood of Jesus speaks of better things than that of Abel.

Jeremiah 2:8

The priests did not say, ‘Where is the LORD?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me; the rulers also transgressed against Me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

Jeremiah 2:13

For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns— broken cisterns that can hold no water.

In the verses above, God accused them of their sins. However, in His mercy, God was looking for anyone who exercised judgment and sought the truth. If there was such a one, He would not destroy the land. However, He found none.

Jeremiah 5:1

Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; see now and know; and seek in her open places if you can find a man, if there is anyone who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her.

Abraham negotiated with God for ten righteous men in Sodom and Gomorrah but none were to be found; only one righteous Lot. At the time of Jeremiah, there was not even one righteous man to be found in Jerusalem. When iniquities came to fullness, the judgment of God came upon them.

Ephesians 2:2

in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

From 1 John 5:18, as children of God, the evil ones cannot touch us except for the ground we open.

Isaiah 57:21

“There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

God holds the government responsible for the peace of the land. God also holds the church responsible for the state of the nation. One of the prayer agendas in our corporate Worship & Intercession sessions is to pray for the government of Singapore. The other is to pray for Israel as our destiny is intertwined with it.

## **B. In the Home**

Luke 10:5-6

5But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ 6And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you.

We need the peace of God in the home. The National Council of Social Services tells us that in six out of seven homes, there is no peace. Families are breaking up. Of the families ministered to by BCCSC, nine out of ten are from dysfunctional homes. God holds the man, the father, as the first one responsible. Therefore, for the men in the church, you are the high priests. In a family, if the husband has left, the woman of the house should be the high priest. If you are the only believer, exercise your priesthood.

Job 1:5

So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.

Job 1:10

Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

God created a hedge of protection around Job, blessed and gave him increase. Apply the Blood over your spouse and children. Do so in the place of work and in the neighborhood. Not only will you experience His hedge of protection, He will also be a wall of fire around you (Zech 2:5). God will also be a hedge of thorns around you. We can pray for our children to be hedged in by thorns so that they will be kept from evil influences.

### **C. Personally**

God knows each of us by name. How do we then appropriate His peace? To have the peace from God, we need to know peace with God. The non-Christians might experience the peace of God in the office and nation but not the peace with God until they receive Him and are justified (Rom 5:1).

### **2. To have peace from God, we must first have peace with God.**

We only have peace when we enter into a relationship with God. How?

**Romans 10:9-10** (NIV)

9That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Whatever we believe, we must declare. I believe and hence I speak. We shall have whatever we speak. (Mark 11:3) Speak words that are aligned with God.

### **3. We can then experience the peace of God**

This follows when we have peace with God. How?

**Philippians 4:6-7** (NIV)

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

How often do we pray until we experience the peace that guards our heart and mind? Our minds are very important. Without peace, the mind will be scattered, tossed here and there. We would be assailed with thoughts: 'What's going to happen to my child, my husband?'; 'This report is no good.'; etc. The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy. But the peace of God comes to protect our mind from wrong thoughts.

**John 16:33**

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

Senior Pastor met a pastor whose wife was suffering from giddiness and had been to see many ENT doctors. However, the cause of the problem could not be traced. The pastor remarked that God gave this for them to learn. This shouldn't be the stance we take. Our illnesses have nothing to do with God as the cause of it. Don't say that diseases come from God. It comes from the fallenness of man. God is good. He changes not. If the sickness is from God, why do we still see doctor to get well? It's illogical to be having this frame of thoughts. God has given us a rational faith, a sound mind. (2

Tim 1:7) What is faith? It's the substance of things hoped for. Jesus didn't die in vain. From this pulpit, we will preach about the divine exchange. He was rich but made poor that we may be made rich, i.e. biblical prosperity, not just success but having good success.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The world wants to give a kind of peace that is different from that Jesus gives. There are three broad areas that cause us to lose our peace:

### **a. Guilt and Condemnation in our relationship with God**

In Rev 12:10, the devil is one who accuses us. He will say that we are hypocrites, sowing guilt and condemnation. We will lose confidence in going to God. However we need to know that God receives us because of the right standing that we have in Jesus. (Romans 5:17, 2 Cor 5:21)

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

On God's part, all our sins are blotted out. On our part, we confess our sins. The purpose of confession is that we are restored in fellowship. The issue is an issue of conscience. The solution for the believer is to know our position in Christ.

1 Timothy 1:19

having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck

Next reason for losing peace:

### **B. Relational conflicts with people.**

Causes: Family strife, inability to fulfill responsibilities, lack of communication in close relationships, mistakes and failures, relationship conflicts, feeling of inadequacy, inability to meet expectations, etc.

Good relationships promote peace and harmony.

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people ...

Romans 12:18

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

How can we experience peace? We win the war by not fighting every battle. Yes, lose the battle but win the war. Choose the battle to fight.

Isaiah 32:17

The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

Where there is right standing, right belief and right outworking, quietness and assurance follow.

### **C. Unable to cope with**

i. Stress

ii. Anxieties – Worries

iii. Fears

The solution to stress is to have strength. Phil 4:13

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

When stressed, declare Phil 4:13. Where does strength come from?

Nehemiah 8:10

'...the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

It comes from the joy of the Lord. Where do we get the joy?

Psalms 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forever.

See also Psalm 100 where we enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise. Give thanks and praise when we are stressed. The solution to anxiety is 1 Pet 5:7. The solution to fears is 1 John 4:18. Perfect love will cast out fear. When you look at the storm, you may have fear but let the love of God calm you down.

## **4. We must then know the God of peace to overcome the evil one and this world.**

Romans 16:20 (NIV)

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

In the Old Testament, when they went out for battle, they called on the Lord of Hosts. When it comes to the new covenant, the victory has been won. We don't fight for victory but from a position of victory. In the New Testament, it's the God of Peace that is mentioned.

### **A. Have faith in Father-God.**

Isaiah 26:3-4 (NIV)

3You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. 4Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.

When we sing the song, "I surrender all," we wonder what will happen next. Will God send me to Zimbabwe? That thought is not of God. Look at Jeremiah 29:11 and you will see that God's thoughts of us are ones of peace.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Hence, we need to come unashamed to Him. That happens only when we know the Father's heart. When we delight in His will, we will ask Him to intervene in our lives and order our steps and direct our thoughts. Even if there is any delay in a matter or should there be any intervention, go with the flow. We don't have to fret but to trust in God as we surrender to Him.

## **B. Submit to the Lord Jesus.**

Psalms 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

Isaiah 48:18

Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Pay heed to the Word. What is the commandment of God? It's the Word. We hear the logos but the Holy Spirit unpacks it as rhema. The word will be different for each one because we have different histories, personalities or needs. When the Holy Spirit draws something to our attention, submit and obey. Don't quench the Spirit. Guard against cynicism and skepticism. Jesus didn't do miracles in his town because of unbelief.

Romans 8:6 (NIV)

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace

Be connected with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16,18,25 talk about walking in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit and living in the Spirit.

## **Conclusion**

Colossians 3:15

Let the Peace of God [Eirene] rule in your heart.

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way.

The Lord be with you all.

My heart's desire for BBTC is to see strong disciples arising and strong marriages in our midst. No condemnation for those who are divorced. We extend to such the right hand of fellowship.

My prayer and burden for BBTC is to see us as healthy believers, being clear minded, healthy and peaceful. Deal with the baggage in our lives. Have a breakthrough everyday. Be a maturing believer.

End.

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**Questions for discussion**

1. Do you have the peace of God? If yes, how so? If no, what could be the reasons?

2. The Israelites committed two evils as mentioned in Jeremiah 2:13. There was no righteous man in Jerusalem and their iniquities piled up for the day of judgment. What are some lessons and applications we can draw from here regarding our responsibility to the nation, workplace and home?



3. How should we deal with guilt and condemnation?

4. How should we deal with stress, anxiety and fears?

5. Share some of the things you do that have helped you develop faith.

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No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...