



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Peace For All Time

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THEME Jehovah Shalom

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In this sermon, DSP Chua Seng Lee uses Paul's 2nd letter to the Thessalonians to share about the importance of knowing why we can have peace for all time. This is the basis of knowing how to obtain peace for our lives. DSP Chua emphasised that peace, continual peace in every circumstance, is always possible when we focus on God. This is because God is both able to give us peace, and desires to give us peace. For all times.

WHY WE CAN HAVE PEACE FOR ALL TIME

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul talks about the reality of persecution (Challenges to our Faith), false teaching (Confusion concerning our Faith) and irresponsible members (Conflicts among the Faith). Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to address some of these peace-robbing issues.

It is possible that Paul intentionally started and ended the letter with the mention of peace (2 Thess 1:2, 2 Thess 3:16) to illustrate that peace is needed when we are facing challenges, confusion, and conflicts. However, peace encompasses more than just these three issues. Paul reminds us that the peace of God, from the God of peace, is continual, in every circumstance, and for everyone!

The peace of God is about having wholesome blessings from God. It is about having total well-being, prosperity and security associated with God's presence among his people. In the Old Testament, peace was conditional upon Israel's obedience. While in the New Testament, peace comes to us in the person of Christ our Messiah and is experienced, by faith, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. God can give us peace for all time (His ability)

Paul prayed for the Thessalonian church that the Lord will grant them peace in every circumstance (2 Thess 3:16), because the church was going through tremendous challenges and needed peace. Likewise, the modern church faces many of the same problems. Some may also be facing the additional challenges of Covid (disease), Calamities (disaster) and Cancer (debilitating illness), which cause them to have an even greater need for divine peace. Paul emphasised that only God can continually grant peace in all circumstances and it is only God who can be the sole source of divine peace.

One of the main disrupters of peace is distraction from the Lord of Peace. When we focus too intently on our problems and allow it to fill our vision, we inevitably lose sight of how great our God is. DSP Chua reminded us that when we stay close to God, we are always protected by Him. Satan, problems and the world may pounce at us, but we are not to fear if we stay close to God, because he backs us up with His power to ward off all the attacks of the enemy. We need only focus on Jesus alone, for his name is Emmanuel meaning “God with us”. When we focus on Him, He will help us shift our problems aside, causing our problems to pale in relation to the Glory of God (Isa 26:3).

2. **God wants to give us peace for all time (His desire)**

The all-encompassing prayer of peace that Paul made (2 Thess 3:16-17) is not just a product of his own human intellect or emotions, but is inspired by God (2 Pet 1:20). As a result, the prayer of peace will be answered, because God’s words never fail! When we take the Word of God seriously, loving it with our hearts, we will have great peace (Ps 119:165). This great peace of God will protect us and not cause us to stumble.

God wants to give us peace and the word of God confirms it (Jn 14:27). It is through these scriptures, that we come to the realization that **God desires to give us peace for all times.**

Yet, many of us still struggle with having peace because of the problem of preference. We have a preference of how peace should look like. As a result, God may have provided us the answer to our prayer for peace, yet we are unable to recognize it because we have a pre-conceived idea of peace based on our needs and wants. As result, this perception can block us from receiving the peace of God.

The peace of God has already come, and God has already given us His peace. This peace comes to us in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ (Luke 2:14), who lived and died on the cross for us for our sins so that we can have eternal peace with God Almighty.

We need to learn and be willing to receive this peace by faith, not allowing our preference to obstruct the work of God in our lives. Jesus Christ coming to earth to die on the cross for our sins is the greatest evidence that God desires for us to have peace.

CONCLUSION

In this sermon, we are reminded that when we are faced by surmounting problems, we have a God who desires and is able to give us continual peace in all circumstances. When we make time to focus on God, we will experience the peace of God. Our focus on God will enable us to shift our problem, surrender our preference and stand on the promises of God. We are encouraged to focus on God by reading His word, worshipping Him and praying to Him. The result will be that the peace of God will come upon us.

QUESTIONS

1. DSP Chua teaches us that there are two problems that can cause us not to see the peace of God in our lives. Recall what these two are, and discuss which affects you more.

2. Share some practical examples and successes of how you have obtained peace as you kept yourself focused on God (and not be distracted), and/or how you have allowed God to work according to His will (and not your own preference).

3. After listening to the sharing and successes from others, what is one area in your life in which you are looking to grow greater peace? What are some of the practical steps you are looking to do to help you? Pray for one another about this.