

**"Let the peace which Christ gives settle all questionings in your hearts, to which peace indeed you were called as belonging to His one body; and be thankful."
(Colossians 3:15, Weymouth translation)**

Let Peace Rule

by Ray Prinzing

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts..." Colossians 3:15.

With the gracious inworkings of the Spirit, as step by step He leads us onward, into the revelation of divine truth, our hearts respond with the thrill of our holy, heavenly, and high calling in Christ. And though the very loftiness of its height causes our imagination to stagger beneath its weight of glory, and we scarce can take it in, yet we would say, as one declared, "while we cannot comprehend this scope, whatever God means by it, that is what we desire." We would lay hold of all that for which we have been apprehended by God. With Paul, "forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the HIGH CALLING of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:13-14).

Now, though the vision is glorious, since our heart is yearning for the full manifestation of its reality, we are grateful that the Lord also works deep within - as HE shows us the qualifications and route into its fulness, that we might receive what HE has prepared, which is now "reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:4-5). It is in view of all this, that we now share together a message on PEACE, and its operation in our life.

One hardly need comment on the fact that in spite of all the talk and clamor for peace today, our world has any thing but peace. The unrest, tension, pressure, riots and tumults even in those nations which do not have an actual warfare going on within their borders, can tell us how little peace is left in our world-system today. In fact there is little peace in the religious-systems of our times, for each group seeks to build its kingdom, and strengthen its own security, and fight everything and everyone which threatens their program. It will require far more than just an ecumenical council, or union of organizations, to produce a lasting peace. We must all bow to the sovereign LORDSHIP of Christ.

It might be further stated that we need more than just abstract doctrines of peace, and appropriate terms for religious occasions. To speak of the need for Christ to come, and that HE is the "Prince of Peace", as long as this is not brought into vital relationship to each man, it has little effect and result. To know that HE is our Peace, and then to know that the riches of the glory of the mystery of the good news is CHRIST IN YOU becoming the security of the full victory to come, all of this must begin to WORK IN US and bring us into the desired fulness. He, peace personified, must rule.

Peace, the Umpire and Ruling Principle

The word "rule" used in our text comes from the Greek word "brabeuo", meaning TO ACT AS JUDGE OR PRESIDENT. Let PEACE be the ruling principle to decide and settle with finality all arising issues. We give three other translations to help bear out the scope of meaning:

"Let the ruling principle in your hearts be Christ's peace, for in becoming members of one body you have been called under its sway." (Goodspeed).

"Let the peace which Christ gives settle all questionings in your hearts..." (Weymouth).

"(act as umpire continually) in your hearts - deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds -,..." (Amplified)

The word PEACE is defined as: a state of tranquility or quiet; freedom from fears, agitating passions, etc. including freedom from moral conflict. What conflict we endure trying to decide if the matter be right, or wrong; not necessarily if it be sinful or holy, but to decide which are the right issues, the right step, or the right stand to take. And so, for all of this, what should become the ruling factor in making decisions? LET THE PEACE OF GOD ACT AS THE UMPIRE.

Pondering this "peace principle" one more, it just seemed as if the Spirit was holding conversation with my thoughts: The Word does not say, let revelation be the umpire, to rule in our hearts. This was a thought to consider. Surely a progressive revelation is needed today; in fact it is an imperative necessity. But how often do men cry to God for revelation to decide, settle issues, and if there be no revelation, then they are at a loss to know what to do. Or again, many will seek for a "prophecy" to answer the question. But God does not always speak by just the manner we demand, nor is it wise to run across our land seeking prophecies.

Revelations are the illuminated unfoldings of truth, a Spirit-quickening of divine principles which can become the undergirding foundation and the guidelines for our life, providing that stability and knowledge needed to follow on into God's fulness.

Prophecy is a blessed God-given gift for "edification and exhortation, and comfort." (1 Corinthians 14:3). And when the Spirit gives this utterance it serves to strengthen and build up our faith, and confirm that which HE has already made known to us, often only inwardly, so that perhaps we haven't even voiced it yet. It can even be for exhorting one to move, and dare to believe God for the victory which He has promised, and which we were in hesitation to act upon.

But for day by day decisions, what should be the ruling principle? LET THE PEACE OF GOD RULE IN YOUR HEARTS!

This does not preclude our walking by divine revelation as God speaks and gives direction, for surely you cannot take a step beyond that point of light which God has given you. But that is another subject apart from this one at hand. NOW for the multitude of situations which arise during the day, or in our daily walk, that ever-present UMPIRE which is able to decide and settle with finality all questions which arise in your heart, THE PEACE OF GOD is sufficient for this task.

"INNER TRANQUILITY" is the necessity of our day. When we are agitated within, it matters not how calm, cool, and collected we might appear outwardly, still our decisions will lack that assurance or settled confidence which can withstand the future onslaught of doubt.

God is preparing a people who shall be able to move in royal dignity aloof from the confusion about them, be it economical, political, or religious. While many are caught in the snare of its turmoil, these shall stand still - beholding the salvation of God, while the world marvels at their serenity and calmness. How earnestly we desire to be found in this company of "peace-ruled" people, but as in all other like-wrought processes, we find one does not receive the overcoming operation of peace in peaceable experiences. It seems God uses the realm of the negative to bring forth the manifestation of the positive. "Knowing that tribulation worketh patience" (Romans 5:3). The same principle seems to be used in relation to peace. The opposite of peace is confusion. The point however is that we need to take care that the outward atmosphere does not become part of our inward condition, but let peace rule within.

Of Christ it is written, "HE IS OUR PEACE" (Ephesians 2:14) and that HE dwells "in your hearts by faith". We might say therefore that HIS PRESENCE is the pervading atmosphere of PEACE. There is no confusion or agitation in HIM. His presence produces a state of tranquility and quietness. While He can surely calm the raging storms without, if that be necessary, He also uses them while HE increases and strengthens that sphere of peace deep within. Thus when HE places us in the midst of stormy confusion, where the atmosphere is rife with strife or tension - rather than praying to be delivered out of the storm, we need to pray that HE will remove anything within us which has an affinity to that condition, and if there be no "inside traitors", peace is victorious. How necessary is that cleansing work within so that we can say "the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." (John 14:30). If there be nought within that responds to the agitations without, peace abides.

God is teaching His people that the victory is within, not on the outside. So Jesus prayed, "I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil." (John 17:15). And Peter declares that these are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:5).

Worry and Peace Cannot Dwell Together

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7).

BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING - Wuest expanded translation is very good here, "stop worrying about even one thing." Strange how many things we find to worry about. It is almost amusing, but there have been times when some of God's children have entered into a certain measure of rest, and having worried for so many years, they begin to worry about the fact they no longer worry, and fear if maybe they are becoming indifferent and insensitive to people's needs, etc. May God deliver us from every subtle form of worry. When one has entered into a new realm of believing in God, and knows that the situation is completely in HIS hand, why then should they worry?

Needs will arise and new measures of grace will be required, but one need not worry about this, simply with prayer and supplication present them to God, and then LET PEACE KEEP YOUR HEART AND MIND. You cannot "keep" your heart and mind in a state of tranquility, for the more you think upon it, and strive with the carnal mind to find an answer, the more tension and unrest develop.

Once the whole situation has been committed to God via our prayer and supplication, THEN LEAVE IT THERE. Let the peace which He gives become the ruling principle - to keep, (this is from the Greek meaning to watch, or guard, to garrison), yes, let peace do the patrol, let peace stand guard over your heart and mind.

Now we readily admit, if all around us is peaceable isn't nearly the problem as when all is in turmoil. If conditions seem to be "seething with tension and rife with strife, then we are so tempted to try in ourselves to first produce a form of peace, and then maintain it if possible. God never said for us to straighten this all out, and then try to keep it status quo, but there must be a LETTING - let the peace of God rule before God, He is never too early, nor too late. Just as soon as PEACE is in control, action can go on, but do not rush ahead before you have that inward peace.

Again, the thought includes a decision of finality, or settledness. If we are to LET peace rule, once there has been an inflow of the peace of God to witness the right decision, let that be the

answer, and don't raise up new objections to contend the decision, would to God we could learn to let peace rule at all times.

Peace Is Not a Self-Attained Product

"Lord, Thou wilt ordain peace for us: for Thou also hast wrought all our works in us." (Isaiah 26:12).

Peace is not a self-attainment, but the result of God inworking. A self-made peace does not last, nor bring a binding victory, and those who seek to make and keep their own peace find it a constant struggle, and this is not peace at all, but a continuous striving. But, with the ending of our own works, comes GOD's peace. This is a process, via the fellowship of His suffering and being made conformable to His death, ending self-promotion and ego-activation, and yet production peace which shall abide.

"The meek... shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Psalm 37:11).

"Mark the perfect, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace." (Psalm 37:37).

The meek, the upright, the perfect - their end shall be peace, not confusion. But this condition of holiness is not the result of our own works, nay, but the result of the purifying work of the Spirit of God.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, THOUGHTS OF PEACE, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11).

God's thought towards you are peace, and as His peace rules in you it will put an end to all confusion, it will bring an end to all questioning and indecision of carnal reasoning, and also give you AN EXPECTATION. A marvellous work of the Spirit of Go, to give you, as the correct Hebrew words it, AND END, AND AN EXPECTATION. God does more than just end the question, HE gives the answer. An expectation - a new door to walk through - and the whole thereof undergirded with His true peace.

Now to be sure, "no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:11).

To God be the glory. The route becomes clear. We see the chastening, correctional discipline of the Lord is used to bring an end to self and its ways, and to give new expectation - because of its yielding the fruit of righteousness. Its the end of the upright man that is peace. The scripture unites these two great realms in victory - "RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE HAVE KISSED EACH OTHER." (Psalm 85:10).

One cannot have the full bloom of righteousness without peace, but neither can one have complete peace without a righteous state of being. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever." (Isaiah 32:17)

Rightness is a STATE OF BEING which is joined to this quality of peace. Fulfilled righteousness leaves no room for unrest and demoralizing disquietude. "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (James 3:18). But notice Moffatt's translation of this: "The peacemakers who sow in peace reap righteousness."

"The harvest of uprightness is grown from the seed of peace by those who are peacemakers." (Williams translation).

"Peace is the seedground of holiness, and those who make peace will win its harvest." (Knox translation).

"Tremendous! Unless we let peace rule within us, there is poor ground for the establishment of HIS righteousness, for PEACE IS THE SEEDGROUND OF HOLINESS. And to go about seeking to establish our own righteousness is certainly to find no peace. But when God ordains our peace, and has wrought all our works in us as well, we shall know both the blessedness of the RULE OF PEACE - and also that state of being, become His righteousness.

He would grow the "harvest of uprightness", but until we let the peace of God rule in us, we find we are far away from harvest time. Take for example some of the more carnal evidences of the negative. We know anger is a work of the flesh, and when we lose our peace, we are also quick to lose our temper. But to let peace be the umpire, and rule within us, then negative fruitage is ended, and the peaceable fruit of righteousness has opportunity to develop.

All of the strife, faction, envy, jealousy, etc. that has plagued God's people has only resulted because we have not LET PEACE RULE. To insist on our own way can only serve to destroy some of the seedground of peace, and at the same time make a fertile field for flesh to produce its own crop of uprightness. Yes, it is very self-evident, peace and righteousness go hand in hand, and their combined work within is most precious.

Obedience to His Will Strengthens Our Peace

"Great peace have they that love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them." (Psalm 119:165)

"O that thou hadst hearkened to My commandments! then had they peace been a river, and they righteousness as the waves of the sea." (Isaiah 48:18).

It is only in obedience to the will of God that we can have peace. His commandments are given to safe-guard us and direct our steps so that righteousness might be able to flourish. That is why we can discern when our step is going contrary to His will - the dove of peace begins to leave our innermost being, and unrest steals in to disquiet us. But as we turn to obey, that peace returns and we know this is HIS WILL regardless of all that man might try to tell us to the contrary. amen.

"To be spiritually minded (i.e. to mind the Spirit) is life AND PEACE." (Romans 8:6).

For a long time we quoted this with the emphasis given to the word LIFE, for we said, and correctly so, to be carnally minded is death, and to be spiritually minded is life, it is a PEACEABLE life. Praise the name of our Lord for ever.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind (here the Hebrew gives, whose thought, imagination) is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee." (Isaiah 26:3).

We often read the phrase in the scriptures "to hold thy peace", and it holds the meaning, to keep silent. But there is a deeper meaning than just what appears to be on the surface, for this goes much farther than just keeping our mouth closed. One might sulk, be moody, repress talk, never say a word out loud, and still not have peace within, but be as a seething pot, boiling with agitating passions, emotions, fears, frustration.

"But He (Jesus) held His peace, and answered nothing." (Mark 14:61).

By what power was Jesus able to keep silent during the hour He faced the cross? His outward calm was due to His inner peace which He retained and wouldn't let go. Because He held fast His inward peace, He could also hold His outward peaceableness.

Perhaps most of us are far too familiar with this, but when the pressures of the day have been many, so every nerve is tense and strained, by the end of the day the petty squabbles among the children can be quiet annoying. But because we try to be Christ-like, we must be spiritual, and so we hold our tongue until it becomes a burden, (it can become an awful heavy load, and it's more than a mere man can tame, James 3:8), so finally in spite of ourselves, when we move to take correction with the child, a sharp word pierces through. But why this difficulty to hold the tongue? It's because while we try to hold it outwardly, inwardly we are all riled and upset, possibly thinking of all the things we felt we would be justified in doing and saying, and so this rambling conversation carries on within us until every semblance of our peace disappears, and we are so upset within, it becomes a traitor and joins the strife outside. But when the Peace of God rules within, and His power holds it there, then He can also control all the outward manifestations. You hold your peace, and then peace will hold your tongue. Praise the Lord.

The Psalmist once said, "I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue." (Psalms 39:2,3)

Notice this: to begin with he held his tongue, for he was dumb with silence. Wouldn't say anything good or bad, giving neither compliment nor condemnation. But, his sorrow was stirred, inner emotions began to awaken and his heart grew hot within, while the more he mused on the situation the more the fire burned, and finally THEN SPAKE I WITH MY TONGUE. What a description of our own experiences, and yet what a work of grace the Lord did work, till the Psalmist could say, "Great peace have they that love Thy law, AND NOTHING shall offend them." O, Hallelujah!

How we need to let peace rule within. The world is so filled with chaos. There are a multitude of situations arising continually which seek to destroy our peace. If you are on a job somewhere, you can see how the work is not being done right, men shirking their duties causing dissatisfaction among others, etc. and one can become so upset by it all, and while you must upon it you can lose all your inner quietness. Your personal problem isn't what goes on outwardly, but whether your inner state of being is controlled by the peace of God. Peace is going to have to be given the rule within if we are going to glorify God.

Our Inner State Reveals Itself

In our impartation to others, we sow more than a word, or an action, but actually you impart of your "spirit" within, "such as I have give I thee." (Acts 3:6).

I believe that it is possible for a person to enter a home, and though they appear to be quiet outwardly, if they have an agitated spirit, and their spirit is able to express itself, before they leave that place everybody will begin to feel upset and troubled within, unless the occupants of the home are able to "let peace rule within them" so that they conquer this intrusion. We would do well to watch what spirits enter our home. Or the situation can be reversed, and if you have that quiet, peaceable spirit controlling you, and you're in a situation that is completely thrown into a state of turmoil, you can impart of your quiet spirit until the whole atmosphere is changed and calmed. Without saying a word, but sowing His presence, with its peace-rule, a victory can be wrought.

No wonder the Psalmist prayed: "Renew a right spirit within me... take not Thy Holy Spirit from me... and uphold me with Thy free Spirit." (Psalm 51:10-12).

Sooner or later, what you are on the inside will reveal itself. If peace has control, settling your questions with finality, and becomes the guard of your heart and mind, then it matters not how tense the circumstances around you may be, you can remain serene and calm.

Then we come to another aspect of the working of peace when we read, "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for Thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety". (Psalm 4:8). I wonder how many times we blame a cup of coffee, etc. for our sleepless state, when actually the truth is we are too agitated and disquieted within to be able to lie down and rest, Turmoil thoughts like the waves of the sea, driven and tossed - we struggled to quiet them, reason it out so the matter can be disposed of, going over and over again in our mind as to the why and wherefore of the thing. But we need to be able to commit our way to the Lord, and the LET PEACE RULE, and we shall be able to find our rest.

The world today stands on the borderline of a complete collapse - insanity is but a hair's breadth from many. Much of our nervous breakdowns, mental exhaustion, with its sorrow and distress, can be avoided, or controlled so that we are not troubled by their distress, when we let peace rule within us. No, it isn't our own human effort of trying to calm ourselves. Tranquilizer pills are not able to calm your inner spirit. Only the rule of our DIVINE UMPIRE, Christ's Peace, can subdue these tensions, and then keep us inwardly quiet.

When all of thy borders, everything that surrounds you is peace, with peace keeping the patrol, there is not one thing which can penetrate within to disquiet you. If you have an inner frustration and unrest, then your enemy without has a toehold with an inside traitor. But if peace is ruling within, and then peace is also your border, and your border-patrol, then all hell can not disturb your tranquility. God makes it so.

Enemies Also Are To Be At Peace with Thee

"When a man's ways please the Lord, He maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Proverbs 16:7).

Who ever heard of such a promise? "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES..." (Psalm 23:4-5). When a man's ways please the Lord, who can comprehend what God shall do for him? HE shall make even his enemies, those that have opposed and fought against him, to now become peaceable. How we need to experience this both as individuals, and as a nation. But the prerequisite is that our ways please the Lord. "Righteousness will exalt a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

"- and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. and thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace." (Job 5:23-24). The applications are many, and even the animal kingdom shall be subdued before us when PEACE fully reigns within. And so also shall the bestial nature in men be subdued - that we fear not the ravaging of their lust and destruction. Thank God.

Perhaps we could even include the thought of that part of the bestial nature of the carnal which is yet within us, even this God shall thoroughly subdue. We need to remember that our driving impulses and restless desires are a sure indication that peace is not ruling.

It has often been said, "a butcher drives, a shepherd leads." And HE who is our Peace will lead us in green pastures, and beside the still waters. If we discover something within us driving--forcing us to decisions, pressing and clamoring for action, may God deliver us from its control, and bring us into the quietness that only HIS PEACE can give. And then HOLD THY PEACE, and not let something come in to reagitate and stir up a new tempest. The secret of maintaining

thy peace is to murder all alternatives. one peace has settled the issue. "Neither give place to the devil." (Eph.4:27)

We are admonished to "gird up the loins of thy mind..." (1 Peter 1:13). Once peace has settled the issues, we shouldn't give place for one moment to considering any alternative. Stay with your peace. In the natural way of life, we begin at the lower courts, and if the decision rendered is not pleasing to us, we appeal unto a higher court, possibly to carry it to the supreme court - and their decision is final. PEACE is to rule as the final court - and to turn from its decision, is to lose all inner quietness and assurance. To disobey its ruling principle is to pay the penalty of turmoil, frustration, and demoralizing restlessness.

"Now may the Lord of peace personally give you His peace at all times and in all ways." (Moffatt Translation)

"- grant you His peace (the peace of His kingdom) at all times and in all ways - under all circumstances and conditions, whatever comes." (2 Thessalonians 3:16, Amplified Translation)

AMEN!

SEE THAT YOU BE NOT TROUBLED

By Ray Prinzing

See that you be not troubled -
By earthquakes and famines and wars,
When nation will rise against nation,
And tidal waves pound at thy shores.

All these are beginning of sorrows,
The anguish of earth's great travail,
The sound of destruction at noon-day,
When darkness and fear would assail.

The courses of nature seem altered,
Their cycles and seasons awry,
All this was foretold by the prophets,
To signal the ending is nigh.

Is nigh, but not yet, said the Master,
Until His great kingdom shall come,
The time is appointed and measured,
Our Father well knoweth the sum.

See that you be not troubled -
These words so befitting the case,
Conditions that beggar description
Arising in place after place.

Deceptions beguile the people
Creeds and traditions of men,
Till minds are benumbed with confusion,
And bitterness pressures again.

But God has a remnant preparing,
In whom He is placing His peace,
A people serene in the Spirit
An inner disturbances cease.

Yes, see that you be not troubled,
This watchword to gird up your way,
Lest troubles without become inward,
Destroying the peace of thy day.

As it is always written in Ray's publications:

NOT TO BE SOLD - this book is given free, as a ministry of love. That which is contained therein cannot be valued in terms of material goods, but is shared with others because it has become life and light to us. May it be received in the same spirit of love in which it is shared. If there be any thoughts expressed that seem to be the result of only natural thinking, we trust that a little breath of kindness will blow the chaff away, that the kernel of truth might remain to bless.