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## A Different Kind of Peace March 22, 2021

Many people in the world seek peace but do not find it. Jesus lamented the lack of peace for his people at the Triumphal Entry (Luke 19:37-44). Jesus provides abundant life (John 10:10), yet peace escapes many Christians. Listen to Scripture in Philippians 4:7, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Paul uses four phrases that tell us how this peace is different from the peace the world seeks.

The peace Paul describes is the “**peace of God.**” Romans 5:1 describes peace with God. Paul is affirming that this peace comes from God—peace that permeates life because Jesus is our peace (Eph. 2:14).

The peace Paul describes is not normal. It is beyond understanding. It does not make sense. It does not depend on normal circumstances. Peace that “**surpasses all understanding**” cannot be explained in or to a broken world. The peace Christians know comes from our relationship with Jesus. “I have God to see me through.” This peace can be seen by unbelievers in our conversations and interactions. Non-believers are seeking peace, especially in the midst of a pandemic. People want to know. May we demonstrate for them the peace that cannot be understood apart from the body of Christ and the word of God. May our lives make clear the source of our peace! I want to know your God!

The peace Paul describes “**will guard your hearts and your minds.**” We are living through extraordinary times, almost daily assaulted by more and more bad news. In peaceful times, almost anyone can know peace. In tumultuous times, peace is only possible when one has a protective fence around the heart and mind. If I have to keep that fence in place all by myself, the struggle is exhausting. The peace of God is the guard I need.

The peace Paul describes is “**in Christ Jesus.**” This peace is only found through a continual relationship with the Lord, within the body of Christ. Being “in Christ Jesus” is essential. While this phrase is synonymous with being in the church, my experience says that peace depends on both my horizontal and my vertical spiritual relationships. Yes, brothers and sisters are a part of this peace. Equally essential is my continual relationship with God through and in Christ Jesus – prayer, listening, reading, sharing fellowship with Jesus, spending time with him.

I praying for this peace over your life.