

“Untroubled Peace through Obedient Love”

[Part I]

John 14.25–31

²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. ²⁸You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; ³¹but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.”
[NASB]

HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Rev. Chris Robinson

25th October, 2009

I. Introduction

Did I say last week that preachers face the temptation to make simple things complicated? Did I say “maybe next week”? Next week is here as of today. Don’t worry; what I have to say today is not complicated. Just multi-faceted. Very multi-faceted. And multiple facets help us to see complex things more clearly. How much more, then simple things... like *peace*? In this precious passage, Jesus proclaims a *Different Peace*, from a *Different Place*, with a *Different Purpose*. Different that is, from anything you will ever find coming from the world.

II. A Different Peace (25-27)

First, the peace Jesus gives to us is very, very different from anything you will ever find coming from the world. It is, in fact, entirely unworldly. It is of different *character* and of different *conferral*. Different essence and different establishment.

A. Different Character

I’ll begin with character. Like a diamond, the character of this peace has many sparkling facets. I won’t name fifty-eight, but I will name fifteen. I trust you came with your pencils sharpened. Here we go:

1. Most Noticeable in Most Turbulent War

One: unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives is most noticeable in the midst of war. Jn16.33“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” The world is at war against God, and thus against God’s people, the Church. The more intense the war, the more you will know His peace. Surrounded by the Aramean army, the Lord opened the eyes of Elisha’s servant. He looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.^{2Ki6.17} Daniel was terrified and trembling on the prospect of war involving Persia and Greece. The angel of God touched him and said “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.”^{Dan10.19}

Ps55.18“He will redeem my soul in peace from the battle which is against me, for they are many who strive with me.” Looking at the intensifying polarities in this nation, now would be a very reasonable time for you to prepare to apply for much peace.

2. Covenantal; Must be Established

Two: unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives *must* be established, for God Himself made a covenant of peace with His Son. Those who are in Christ *must* receive the peace God gave His Son. Heb13.20“Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will...”

There is no guarantee that any nation in the world will make peace with any other, but it is *impossible* that peace will *not* be established between God and those united to Christ by faith.

3. Unshakable

Three: unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives is *unshakable*. Isa54:10“‘For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken,’ says the LORD who has compassion on you.” In the world there will always be wars and rumors of wars, and of these the world will always be frightened. But as peace with God *must* be established according to His covenant, so too peace must be *unshakable* according to His covenant promises.

4. Abundant

Four: unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives is *abundant*. Isa66:12“Thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees.’” Peace

like a wide, sweeping river. Like the river of living water flowing out of Ezekiel’s vision-temple, what began as a trickle arose to the knees, to the loins, to a river that could be swum in, and ultimately a river that could not be forded.^{Eze47}

5. Dividing as Well as Uniting

Five: contrary to a worldly notion of peace, the peace Jesus gives *divides* as well as *unites*. Lk12.51“Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; ⁵²for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.” The peace Jesus gives brings division between those who receive Jesus and those who refuse Jesus.

6. Preached, Not Negotiated

Six: Unlike world peace, the peace Jesus gives is declared rather than debated; preached rather than negotiated. God is no negotiator. Act10:36“The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching *peace* through Jesus Christ... ⁴³Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.” God sets and states the terms of peace with Him. Isa57.18“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him... Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near,” says the LORD.

7. Spiritual, not Natural

Seven: The peace Jesus gives is spiritual, not natural. Rom8:6“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.” Peace in the world depends upon agreements regarding land, natural resources, commerce, and political advantage. The peace Jesus gives depends only upon an interest in the things of God and of the kingdom of heaven. Domestic and international laws abound to restrain evil. But Gal5.22“*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*”

8. Kingdom Essence

Eight: Unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives is essential—in the very warp and woof of the Kingdom of God. Ideal world peace ultimately achieves the supply of equitable food and shelter and felicity for all people in all nations. But Rom14:17“*The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*”

9. Powerful Weapon

Nine: Ironic in relation to worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives is a powerful weapon of war, both offensive and defensive. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Taking up the full armor of God, Paul says we are to Eph6.15“*have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.*” Defensively, Phil4.7“*The peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

10. Aggressive, not Passive

Ten: Unlike worldly peace that comes through appeasement of nations or appeasement of fleshly desires, the peace Jesus gives is aggressive, not passive. Col3.14“*Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.*” In other words, let your peace in Christ actively and deliberately rule the decisions you make. Let your peace in Christ put to death your need always to get your own way; and move you to repent, quickly to grant forgiveness of others, and to seek reconciliation. All three are very active endeavors, in no way passive.

11. Apolitical, Other-centric

Eleven: Unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives is *apolitical* and *other-centric*. Peace in the world aims at gaining political advantage for self. ^{Jas3.17}“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” The peace Jesus gives seeks the well-being of others, just as Jesus sought the well-being of others.

Benefit to self comes after loving others. ^{Mt5.9}“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” ^{Heb12.14}“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”

There may be successful diplomats among the nations, but there is no such thing as an enduring peacemaker who is not a beloved disciple of Jesus. ^{1Pe3.11}“He must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. ¹²for the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, and His ears attend to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

12. Cannot be Pretended or Presumed

Twelve: Unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives cannot be pretended or presumed. Beware those who predict peace apart from Christ. ^{Jer6.14}“They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ but there is no peace.” ^{1Th5.3}“While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”

13. Divine Benediction, not Superficial Greeting

Thirteen: The peace Jesus gives comes by divine benediction, not by superficial salutation that sounds nice. Divine benediction from Jesus: ^{Lk24.36}“He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be to you.’” ^{cf Jn20.19,26} Divine benediction through the Apostles: ^{2Th3.16}“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!” Beware those who flippantly greet you with words of “peace” but who reject the blood of Jesus Christ that alone brings peace.

14. Requires Regeneration

Fourteen: The peace Jesus gives requires regeneration—you must be born again to know this peace. As for worldly peace, ^{Rom3.17}“And the path of peace they have not known.” The most charitable, even-tempered, winsome person who lives the most simple, unencumbered life, who does not know and love Jesus, knows and experiences *nothing* at all of this peace.

15. Removes Trouble rather than Appeasing Trouble

And fifteen, unlike worldly peace, the peace Jesus gives *removes* trouble rather than hides or covers trouble. ²⁷“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

B. Different Conferral

Fifteen facets of the different *character* of peace Jesus gives. Now onto the different *conferral* of this peace, not in fifteen facets but three things.

1. Sent by the Father

First, the Father *sends* this peace. Unlike worldly peace, this peace comes by *unilateral grant*. This is no agreement reached between two powers. Rather, this peace is a state of concord and harmony granted by the offended Power above all powers. Nobody offered any bargain to God, and nobody ever could. He made all things and owns all things.

God didn't ask us if we thought His was a good idea. He didn't wait for us to negotiate a deal before lighting up the peace pipe. Entirely on His own initiative and of His own good will did He declare, ^{Eze37:26}“I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever.” Desiring Man. God desires peace with you and God sent peace to you. ^{Ps29.11}“The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace.” Agree with the Psalmist then and say, ^{Ps85:8}“I will hear what God the LORD will say; for He will speak peace to His people, to His godly ones; but let them not turn back to folly.”

2. Secured by the Son

Second, peace sent by the Father comes in the Person of the Son. Peace sent by the Father is secured by the Son. Perhaps more acutely in this country than in any other we know that the world gives peace at a cost to you, with no guarantee of longevity. Much human blood has been given to secure peace that has no guarantee of lasting.

But Christ gives you peace at a cost to *Himself* with *full eternal guarantee* of the Holy Spirit. The cost *is* Himself! The eternal Son of God became man, born of low estate in Bethlehem to bring peace between God and Man. ^{Mic5.2}“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity... ⁵This One will be our peace.” ^{Eph2:14}“He Himself is our peace who makes all believers one regardless of their nation, tribe, or tongue.”

^{Isa9:6}“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” While on this earth He proclaimed peace. ^{Isa52:7}“How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces *peace* and brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, and says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

Then He fulfilled His proclamation of peace by removing the animosity between God and man. Upon Himself, he bore the righteous anger and vengeance of God for the war of rebellion against God in which we had so heartily engaged. ^{Isa53:5}“He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.” Thus He secured our legal innocence by satisfying the justice of the Law.

But there is more: He gave to us title to eternal life in heaven, by transferring to us His full account of perfect obedience to God. Thus at the cross of Jesus Christ, ^{Ps85:10}“Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.” ^{Rom5:1}“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

3. Sealed by the Spirit

Peace. Sent by the Father. Secured by the Son. And third, this peace is sealed by the Holy Spirit. Some twenty years or so ago when we were still in chapter 2, we heard Jesus tell the Jews that they would ^{2.19}“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Of course this sounded seditious to the Jews who heard Jesus proclaiming to have the power of God. But then John says, ^{2.22}“So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

This is the kind of thing Jesus refers to here in ch14 when He says, ²⁶“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” The Spirit serves and seals the peace Jesus leaves with His disciples. He causes us to remember what Jesus said. But more than that, the Spirit

causes us to *believe* what Jesus said and the Holy Spirit enables and persuades us to *embrace* Jesus as the One who is Himself our peace with God.

When we trust in Jesus to be our peace with God, the Holy Spirit assures us that He Himself gave us the grace of that trust, that faith. ^{Eph1.13}“You also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...”

The Spirit seals—guarantees—the peace we have in Jesus. The Spirit *serves* the peace in Jesus by assuring and comforting us as we live in spiritual peace. Do you want to see a miracle? Do you want to be astonished? Do you want to see clear evidence of God though you cannot see Him? Then listen to this: ^{Act9:31}“So the church throughout *all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace*, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the *comfort of the Holy Spirit*, it continued to increase.”

Can you picture the Church enjoying peace among all its members and all its particular churches? This is amazing—even on a larger scale than before the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. Before then, we find the small band of disciples who in the Upper Room, ^{Act1.14}“all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

One mind! Continually devoting to prayer! They had the Holy Spirit. But when the Holy Spirit was poured out in much greater measure at Pentecost, the gospel of peace in Jesus spread all across the land. And the churches that sprang up and grew were all enjoying that peace, increasing, and comforted by the Spirit who seals and serves the peace sent by God the Father and secured by His Son Jesus Christ. What worldly peace can come near touching that?! We have this peace...Lord let us *have* it!

III. Temporary Conclusion

Well, I will take comfort in your patience; that you will rest in the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ until we return next Lord’s Day, should He not return before then. At that time we will continue with the Different Place and the Different Purpose that attend the Different Peace of which we heard today, sent by the Father, secured by the Son, and served by the Spirit.

But this peace is as urgent as it is eternal. If you go without this peace for one millionth of a second more, you have no guarantee whatsoever that you’ll have it for a million years to come. If you have the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, you have it forever. If you do not have the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, then to put it off for another moment is as mad as it is offensive to the eternal God who has offered it so freely to you at such great cost to Him. Apply to Him for peace on His infinitely favorable terms; do it now lest while you delay, for everlasting judgment He returns.