

**The Peace of Jesus
John 16:33**

February 28, 2010

Dr. Steve Horn

Text Introduction: We are announcing a major initiative in our church joining with other Baptist Christians across our state to Share the Peace of Jesus. One of the initial waves of our initiative is to pray in neighborhoods across our city, "The Peace of Jesus." (Our staff did this on last Monday, and I believe that I speak for all of us when I tell you that it was a very moving experience.) You will be hearing us talk about "Sharing the Peace of Jesus." We encourage you even today to make a commitment to join us on Saturday, March 20, to pray the peace of Jesus over our city.

There is something that has bothered me as of late, though, and that is that sometimes we as believers in Jesus do not experience much peace in our own lives. How can we share the peace of Jesus with others if when they look at our lives they see a void of peace? Jesus addressed this in a lengthy sermon contained in John 14-16. This sermon does not seem to be as familiar as the Sermon on the Mount, but it is a powerful reminder to us about the peace involved in a relationship with Jesus. I want us to stand together and read the final words of this sermon and then I want to attempt to walk you through highlights of Jesus' sermon.

Text: I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

Introduction: At 8:17 on the evening of March 3, 1943, bomb-raid sirens went off in London, England. Workers and shoppers stopped and looked to the skies. Buses came to an immediate halt. People raced for cover. One of the places that they sought protection was the Bethnal Green Underground Station. Reportedly, in the rush to enter the underground protection area, someone slipped causing mass chaos. The end result was 173 people were crushed to their death. Such is the destruction when a lack of peace is evident in our lives. The key to this verse is understanding what these things are that Jesus has said unto us. His promise is that by understanding these things, we can have peace. When we have that kind of peace, we will discover that the peace of Jesus is better than having peace in the world. So, what are *these things*?

1. Be Certain of the place of your eternal destiny. (John 14:1-7)

- Specific Place—Heaven is a real place.
- Specific Preparation—Jesus tells us that we can be prepared to go to Heaven.
- Specific Promise—John told us in his first letter to John that we can know for sure that we have eternal life.

When Charles Lindbergh discovered that he had terminal cancer, he wrote out what he wanted to be read at his burial service:

We commit the body of Charles A. Lindbergh to its final resting place; but his spirit we commit to Almighty God, knowing that death is but a new adventure in existence and remembering how Jesus said upon the cross, "Father, into thy hand I commend my spirit."¹

What a difference in our peace when we know that we spend eternity in Heaven.

2. Call on Jesus in Prayer. (John 14:13)

- ✓ Is it His will that you have peace?

There's a hymn, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Listen to the words of the first verse:

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

3. Count on the Presence of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18, 16:5-15)

- Comforts
- Convicts of Sin
- Counsels

We can have peace because we know that we are not alone.

4. Continue to Pursue a Daily Relationship with Jesus. (15:1-11)

Two Products of Abiding in Jesus:

- Fruit
- Joy

There is joy because there is fruit. Living a life of pursuing righteousness is a life of peace. We are not trying to cover up our sin. We are not ridden with guilt. We are right with God. There is peace in that.

5. Take Comfort in the Prophecy of Jesus concerning tribulation. (15:18-19; 16:33)

¹ Max Lucado, *Fearless*, 121.

Jesus is not surprised by your circumstances.

6. Be Confident in the Power of God. (16:33)

But, still some want to ask, “But how can I know that in Him is peace.” It’s easy when we consider the resurrection. That’s why Jesus, after His resurrection, said, “Peace to you.”

Conclusion: Let the peace of God rule in your hearts! Colossians 3:15

So, what are we to do? We are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. (Colossians 3:15) In 1555, Nicholas Ridley was burned at the stake because of his witness for Christ. On the night before Ridley's execution, his brother offered to remain with him in the prison chamber to be of assistance and comfort. Nicholas declined the offer and replied that he meant to go to bed and sleep as quietly as ever he did in his life. Because he knew the peace of God, he could rest in the strength of the everlasting arms of his Lord to meet his need. So can we!

Remember the story of the London Air Raid I told you about in the beginning. The irony of the story about the air raid in London is that no bombs were dropped that day. Further irony to that story is that the largest single number of casualties due to an air raid in London was 68.² The lesson from these events is that panic can cause worse destruction than actual difficult events. That’s why we must let the peace of God rule in our hearts!

² Max Lucado, *Fearless*, 175 and 176 and Wikipedia.