

Philippians 4:7

The Peace of God

Peace within reach ...

I. The God of Peace

- A. Is Near
- B. In the Place of Prayer

II. The Nature of Peace

- A. Unsurpassed
- B. Penetrating
- C. Protective

III. The Power of Peace

- A. Guarding Hearts
- B. Protecting Minds

... in Christ alone.

Children, Listen ...

1. God is everywhere, so why is important to set aside time and place to pray to Him?
2. Can the world give us the kind of peace for our souls that God does?
3. How will spending time with God in prayer help us to think straight?
4. How will seeking God's help in prayer help us to behave?

Guarding Mansoul

Borrowing the depiction of man's being in John Bunyan's Holy War, I urge you to guard Mansoul. In the story Mansoul is a town under assault by spiritual forces—primarily those leveled by Diabolus (the devil). If you are a believer, your personal Mansoul (Womansoul?) that was once under siege by the evil one has been captured and secured by Immanuel (the hero of the story) Himself. But that does not mean that the attacks of Diabolus, his minions and devices has ceased. We constantly face temptations via attacks on our hearts and minds that come at us from many directions.

In our text, Paul directs us to use one of the greatest resources available to us to acquire the protection we need to face our adversaries. Prayer is the means of acquiring the protective peace that only God can provide. Reminiscent of the conclusion of the apostle's epic text on spiritual warfare and the urgency to don the armor of God, we are told to pray: "... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication." Ephesians 6:18

Take up the armor of God, and pray without ceasing, that your hearts and minds would be perpetually guarded by the peace that passes all understanding.