

Peace In The Midst of the Storm — 09/12/21

TEXT- John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

INTRO –

The inward peace which is His purpose for us; the outward tribulation which is our certain fate; and the courageous confidence which Christ's victory for us gives.

I. The inward peace.

'These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace'

Peace is not lethargy; its opposite of tribulation and battle.

'In the world ye shall have tribulation'

'I have overcome' - suggests a fight.

These are to go side by side with the peace that He promises.

The two conditions belong to two different spheres.

The Christian life splits into a double root, and moves in two realms-

'in Me' and *'in the world'*

And the characteristics of these two lives are diametrically opposite.

He promises a peace in and through conflict and struggle.

We may live in a centre of rest, however wild may be the circumference.

'In Me. . . peace,' that is the innermost life. 'In the world. . . tribulation,' that is only the surface.

Note that this peace, depends upon certain conditions. It is a possibility;

The twofold set of conditions,

I. It is peace, in Him.

'dwelling in Him' as the duty of every Christian.

- We are in Him as in an atmosphere.
- In Him our true lives are rooted as a tree in the soil.
- We are in Him as a branch in the vine,
- in Him as the members in a body,
- in Him as the residents in a house.
- We are in Him by simple faith,

By the trust that rests all upon Him, by the love that finds all in Him, by the obedience that does all for Him.

And it is only when we are 'in Christ' that we rest, and realize peace.

All else brings distraction and trouble. It may give excitement, but there is only one thing that gives peace, that our hearts should be surrounded by Jesus Christ. Keep Christ between you and the storm, and there will be a quiet place.

'These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace'

2. It is peace through His promises

- His ascension to Heaven to prepare a place for us;
- His coming again to receive us to Himself;
- His presence with us in His absence;
- His indwelling in us and ours in Him through the Spirit.

If we believed all these things; if we meditated upon them in the midst of our daily duties; and if they were real to us, and not mere words written down in a Book, how should anything be able to disturb us, or shake our confidence? And then, whatsoever storms may be around, the heart will be at rest. Mary found peace, when Martha was 'troubled about many things.'

II. The outward tribulation.

'In the world ye shall have tribulation,' applies to all.

Pain, sickness, death, labor, disappointment, and all the others' afflict us all.

The mysterious sorrows which fall upon men because they are good,

'In the world ye have tribulation,' It had already begun, and it was to be the standing condition and certain fate of all that followed Him.

If you and I are Christians after the pattern of Jesus Christ, then we dwell in the midst of an order of things which is not Christian.

- **All that you regard as obvious the world regards as folly.**
- **All that you labour to secure the world does not care to possess.**
- **All that you live to seek it has abandoned;**
- **All that you desire to obey it will not even consider,**

There must come, sooner or later opposition and tribulation.

The form of antagonism varies.

Christians have dropped their standard far too much, and so the antagonism is not so plain as it ought to be, and as it used to be.

If you live like a Christian, you will get sneers flung at you.

You will be 'impracticable,' 'spoiling sport,' 'not to be dealt with,' 'a wet blanket,' 'pharisaical,' 'bigoted,' and all the rest

'In the world ye have tribulation.'

Paul stated, 'I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus,'

It is the branding-iron which tells to whom the slave belongs.

There will be antagonism.

let us not be ashamed of the cross,

'In the world ye have tribulation'; and the Christian man's peace has to be like the rainbow that lives above the clouds.

III. The courageous confidence which comes from the Lord's victory.

'be of good cheer!' It is the commandment given to Joshua *'Be strong, and of a good courage; only be thou strong and very courageous.'*

our Captain sets before us His own example: *'I have overcome the world.'* He said that the day before Calvary.

Notice, then, how our Lord's life was a true battle. The world tried to draw Him away from God by appealing to things desirable to sense, as in the wilderness; or to things dreadful to sense, as on the cross; and both the one and the other form of temptation He faced and conquered.

The Captain of our salvation has really fought the fight before us.

But mark, again, that our Lord's life is the type of all victorious life.

The world conquers me when it draws me away from God,

- when it makes me its slave,
- When it coaxes me to trust it, and urges to despair if I lose it.
- When it comes between me and God,
- When it fills my desires,
- When it absorbs my energies,
- When it blinds my eyes to the things unseen and eternal.

I conquer the world when I put my foot upon its temptations, when I crush it down, when I shake off its bonds

Whoso thus coerces Time and Sense to be the servants of his filial love has conquered them both, and whoso lets them draw him away from God is beaten, however successful he may dream himself to be.

Jesus Christ was not a very successful man according to the standard of the world.

but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.'

'I have overcome the world, and I will come and put My overcoming Spirit into your weakness, and fill you with My own victorious life, and make your hands strong to war and your fingers to fight; and be in you the conquering and omnipotent Power.'

My friends! Jesus Christ's victory is ours, and we are victors in it, because He is more than the pattern of brave warfare, He is even the Son of God, who gave Himself for us, and gives Himself to us, and dwells in us our Strength and our Righteousness.

Remember the condition of victory is the simple act of reliance upon Him
2 Ch 20:12 *O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.*

Jehoshaphat, the king, was panic-stricken of Moab and Ammon *'we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.'* For *'this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.'*

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