

† The Heart of Christ – the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

“...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end”(John 13:1.)

The Comforting Savior In the provision of Christ – Precious Promises (Part 1) John 14:25-31

25 These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 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. 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.

Charles Spurgeon once related a story concerning the brother of George Whitefield, the prolific preacher and evangelist of the 18th century. Whitefield's brother had lived far from the ways of godliness. One afternoon he was sitting in a room in a chapel-house. He had heard his brother preach the day before, and his poor conscience had been cut to the quick. Whitefield's brother declared when he was at tea: "I am a lost man," and he groaned and cried, and could neither eat nor drink. Lady Huntingdon, and friend of George and who sat opposite the brother replied: "What did you say, Mr. Whitefield?" "Madam," said he, "I said I am a lost man." "I'm glad of it," said she; "I'm glad of it." "Your ladyship, how can you say so? It is cruel to say you are glad that I am a lost man." "I repeat it, sir," said she; "I am heartily glad of it." He looked at her, more and more astonished at her seeming barbarity. "I am glad of it," said she, "because it is written, 'The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.'" With the tears rolling down his cheeks, he said: "What a precious Scripture; and how is it that it comes with such force to me? O! Madam," said he, "Madam, I bless God for that; then He will save me; I trust my soul in His hands; He has forgiven me." He went outside the house, felt ill, fell upon the ground, and died.

It might be hard to decide whether this is a sad story or great story. To walk outside a house and drop dead is not the most exciting of prospects, unless of course you knew you had the promises of God; that you had been brought to that place of understanding the grace and mercy of God to save a poor, lost and wretched soul – the promise of God unto salvation for all who believe.

As we move along in our text found in John 14 this morning let me remind you that we have been looking at how our Lord Jesus Christ set out to comfort His disciples at a time most confusing and dark for them. With their world seemingly crashing in on them, our Lord takes the time to assure them of His intentions and purposes for them...His working for their benefit and for their salvation. Let me remind you that what we have both here in chapter 14 and through this Upper Room discourse could be described as a last will and testament of Jesus Christ. It is full of provisions and promises that ought to bring such delight and praise to the believer's ears.

In our text this morning we find something that might be seen as a summary of the previous thoughts of the chapter, a reiteration, a restating of the precious promises of God. And to that end, I would have you consider with me the two promises of this text and what those promises supply the believing heart. We begin with...

The Heart of Christ – the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

“...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end”(John 13:1.)

I. The Promise of the Paraclete (14:25-26)

25 *These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.* 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.*

Our text begins with Jesus reminding His disciples that He had been speaking to them, teaching them truths that they would need for the future. The reality of it was that at the time the disciples did not fully understand or appreciate exactly what it was that Jesus had been teaching and promising in the previous verses. Have you ever had one of those moments when you were trying to understand something? I know that I often feel that way playing some of my kid's video games. In my day, I was pretty good, but now sometimes I will play a game with Luke and it seems that by the time I might understand what I am supposed to do, he has already won the game. It can be so aggravating. Well, here in our text, Jesus knows that His disciples are just not getting it yet and so He quickly reminds them of the promised One yet to come, the Holy Spirit, the Helper, or as we have already learned, the *Paraclete*, the one who comes along side of another to help, to aid, to encourage, to comfort and to guide. And Jesus reminds His followers that this Helper will come in the name, that is with the authority and power of Jesus Christ Himself, sent to represent Jesus even as Jesus had been sent to represent the Father.

But what is most important for us to consider this morning is what Jesus says this promised Paraclete will do for His followers. There are two such roles or functions of the Holy Spirit defined for us; two workings of the Spirit that are meant to be understood; that are meant to assure the disciples' hearts; that are meant to cause the disciples' great joy.

The Divine Instructor

First is the promise that the Holy Spirit, ***“will teach you all things...”*** Here we see that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Instructor. The word for “teach” here simply means to instruct – to guide into some area of study – just as a teacher of history guides his class into the knowledge of history, so here we are told that the Holy Spirit is the One who will guide us into “all things” – which means “all things” as spoken of by Jesus Christ. In the most simple of terms, Jesus proclaims that it is the Holy Spirit that reveals and instructs His people regarding the essential truths concerning the things of God. Have you ever wondered why it is that there are some who do not believe in God at all...this is because they will not submit themselves to be taught such things by the divine Instructor, the Holy Spirit. There are others that may believe in God, or in gods, but have skewed views of Him because they will not heed the teaching the divine Instructor, the Spirit of Truth. Sadly, even Christians at times do not avail themselves to the promise that the Spirit guides in truth and reveals to us in whom the Spirit dwells the deep things of God. This promise of the teaching ministry of the Spirit is restated by Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:9-14. Here Paul is speaking of true spiritual knowledge, knowing to the extent intended by God, God's plans for His people. We read:

9 but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” 10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men

The Heart of Christ ~ the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

"...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end"(John 13:1.)

knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

Beloved, it is possible to know things about God without ever truly knowing God. We are needful of the Spirit of God to teach us. He is the divine Instructor. How often do we look to Him in this way? Are we eager students, listening intently, paying close attention? Or are we the rowdy, disinterested ones in the back of the class?

But in addition to the teaching ministry of the Spirit, Jesus next tells His disciples that the Spirit would be the One who **"will bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."** Here we see that the Spirit of God is also the Divine Illuminator; not only revealing facts and truths about God to light, but also then bringing those truths to understanding and application. Let me give you an example of this from our current study here. Jesus has been teaching the disciples about His pending betrayal, arrest, crucifixion, death and resurrection. And yet they had not understood these. It would not be until after the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus in to heaven, followed by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2, that the disciples would begin to remember and understand both the teachings of Jesus as well as how the Old Testament truly pointed to Jesus. We need both the instructing and the illuminating ministry of the Spirit of God to help us know and understand the work of God in our lives. Let me give you an example of this:

There once was a young man who, having the desire to be a minister, attended seminary; the only problem being it was a liberal seminary that denied much of the truths and certainly the supernatural of Scripture. In the course of time he was saved through the ministry of Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, pastored at the time by Donald Grey Barnhouse.

In a message this young man heard by one of the pastors of Tenth Presbyterian, the preacher made reference to the fact that it would be absurd to think that John could remember the words spoken by the Lord in John 17 (or any of the words of Christ uttered in the upper room discourse) spoken some 50 years before John recorded them in his gospel, were it not for the fact of this promise as recorded in John 14:26, the promise of Jesus that the Holy Spirit would bring to the remembrance of the apostles the things that He had said unto them.

After the message, the young man thanked the preacher profusely for the comment because this had been disturbing him for some time, due to the criticism of his old seminary professors. They had said it was ridiculous to place confidence in the statements of a man ninety years of age. "But oh," he said, "I felt like shouting for joy when you dispelled the theory that it was John's memory, but rather that it was the Holy Spirit's own memory bringing back to John, word for word, what the Lord Jesus had to say."

And not only did John remember word for word, but it also now all made sense, for the Spirit of God had both instructed and illumined the heart of the disciples. And beloved, the same is true for us, the Holy Spirit is our Divine Instructor as well as our Divine Illuminator. He reveals

† The Heart of Christ ~ the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

“...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end”(John 13:1.)

to us the deep things of God as we hear, read and study God’s word as well as making those truths understandable and applicable to our lives. For example; in Romans 8:16 we are taught that it is the Spirit of God that testifies, that makes know to our spirits, our hearts that we are children of God...this is instruction...we are children of God and then the Spirit takes that truth and helps us apply it in such a way that we can cry out “Abba Father”!

But know this (and I am almost ashamed to say), that just hearing or reading or studying the Bible does not promise instruction and illumination. You and I know how easy it is to do good and supposedly godly things – “in the flesh,” that is, in our own humanness. Have you ever heard someone (or done so yourself) pray in such a way that they were trying to impress those around them rather than concern themselves with simply praying to God?

Do I hear, read and study the word “in the flesh” according to my own understanding and intellect (which is small)? To be sure, I must tangibly engage with word, I must read it and I must study it. But if I am not dependent upon the Spirit of God, if I am not looking to and pleading with the Spirit of God to teach me all things and to bring to my remembrance and understanding the things of God; my time in the word will be frustrating and discouraging. I need the Spirit of God to both reveal to me and teach me the truth, that I might know and understand the truth of God’s Word. You need the Spirit of God, every time you open your Bible, every time you hear the Word preached. And here is the promise, the promise of the Paraclete, the one who comes along side to be our divine Instructor and Illuminator of the truth of God.

Let us be wary of reading and studying the Word of God without first pleading with the Spirit of God to instruct and illumine our hearts. It is no wonder that so few of professing “born-again” believers rarely read and study the Word for themselves. For it becomes a work of the flesh, needing to be understood by the human mind apart from the aid and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who could rightly understand it at all?

II. The Promise of Peace (14:27)

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.

In addition to the promise of the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, the next promise of our text is that of peace. It is interesting to me to note how the world, and even sometimes Christians, will wish others “good luck” or wish others their “hope for the best”; or wish others “peace and quiet” in the midst of their turmoil and troubles. But notice what Jesus offers His disciples in the time of their trials. He says, **“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you.”** There is no wish here; there is no crossing of the fingers and hoping for the best. The promise is that of something real; something that Jesus promised to give and that is peace.

Peace is a conviction

But just what is peace? I know that we just studied peace a few weeks ago being one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit. But what is peace? Well let me tell you what peace is not. Peace is not the absence of emotion. Just before Jesus retired to the Upper Room with the disciples, knowing the time of His death was approaching, He said, **“Now my soul has become troubled...” (John 12:27).** And in Gethsemane, as Jesus goes to pray just prior to His betrayal and arrest, we read in Mark 14:33, **“And [Jesus] took with Him Peter and James and John**

† The Heart of Christ ~ the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

“...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end”(John 13:1.)

and began to be very distressed and troubled.” Jesus was very much acquainted with human grief and emotions. Peace is not an emotion.

And let us remember that peace is not simply escaping from reality, fleeing from difficulty; pretending that everything is okay. Peace is not dependent, nor is it to be subject to our emotions or our experiences. True peace is not based upon the circumstances of life, but rather upon one's connection or relationship to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and as implied in our text, the true Giver of peace.

What is this peace offered by Jesus Christ? Beloved, **peace is the conviction**; the awareness of being in a right relationship with God as made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for your sins. This conviction is also the awareness of the love of God and the providence (the working) of God in your life. The idea of peace is the idea of being at rest with or made one with God. To the Greeks and Romans, peace was simply the absence of war. The Romans kept the peace by what was called the *pax romana* – the peace of Rome, kept by their powerful legions spread out through the empire to keep war at bay. But to the Jews and now particularly the Christians, peace was not simply the absence of war...but rather being at one and at rest with God. When a Jew said “shalom” – it was to express the desire that there would be nothing broken and nothing missing in your relationship to God. Of course, such a complete condition is only made possible by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross who by His sacrifice reconciled, or made peace between rebellious sinners and the righteous God. The peace that Jesus offers here is not an emotion, but the birthright of everyone who is born-again, who has trusted in Jesus alone for salvation, for peace between himself and God. Beloved, I say to you that a sinner who cares not of the work of Christ on the cross, who desires to live for self rather than for God; whose life is characterized by being at odds with God has more hope of being at rest or peace in a lion's den full of hungry beasts than of being at rest, of being right, of being one with God.

Let me work out this idea of what is peace just a bit more. In Romans 5:1 we read that we have **peace with God**. Let me define “**peace with God**” as the conviction, the awareness that I am in a right relationship with God; that I am justified, declared to be right; that I who once was His enemies, who to one degree or another had animosity, or hatred, or indifference, or apathy toward God is now reconciled, at rest, one with God because Jesus took away that strife, that antagonism and paid for my rebellion and sin by dying on the cross for such sin.

In Philippians 4:7 however we learn that there is not only peace with God, but there is also the **peace of God**. Let me define the “**peace of God**” as the conviction that God is always present and active in my life and that nothing that comes to pass is never for my ill but always for my good and goods glory.

Remember back to what Jesus had taught earlier in John 14, that believers have the presence of the Spirit and of the Son and of the Father in their lives. They possess then this right relationship (peace with God) as well as this working of God in their lives (peace of God). When trials or disasters or opponents come into such a person's life, he can yet be firmly convinced that God is with him, that God is for Him because such a peace has been promised to him. Peace is a conviction.

The Heart of Christ ~ the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

"...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end"(John 13:1.)

Peace is a Condition

But peace is also a condition. Look with me what else Jesus says about this peace. He says that it is something He leaves with them. The idea here is that of an inheritance. Jesus is bequeathing to His disciples this rest with God. How can Jesus do this, because peace...being in a right and restful relationship with God is something that is His - by His own experience, for Jesus is and was always right with God, always one with the Father and seeing that it is His possession, it is His also to give. To the one who comes to Jesus, who looks to Jesus, who sees in Jesus one who took your shameful place on the cross, who looks to Jesus as paying the cost of his own sin; who looks on Jesus as restoring to the repentant sinner the right and ability to live no longer for himself but for Him; to such a one as this is the promise of peace. So we see that peace is not simply a conviction, but it is also a condition.

This peace is real and tangible...not a wish or a hope and it is not an emotion. It exists apart from circumstances and feelings. It is not that we so much need then to "feel" peace, but rather to live in light of the reality of peace. Let me put it this way. Sometimes we hear someone say, "I feel alive!" Have you ever really thought about that statement? No one ever really "feels" dead...I know we say it, but dead doesn't feel anything...it is just a state of being. And to be alive is not a feeling, but again a state of being. When we say we feel alive, what we are really saying is that we are truly aware of the reality of life and want to embrace it. Beloved, peace is not a feeling, it is a reality. If you are in Christ, He has bequeathed and granted peace with God and the peace of God. The question is not are you feeling it, but rather are you living in light of it?

H. A. Ironside once related the story of a Confederate soldier, who was unaware of the end of the Civil War. "At the close of the war between the States, we are told that a troop of Federal Cavalry were riding along a road between Richmond and Washington. Suddenly they saw a poor wretch, clothed in the ragged remnants of a Confederate uniform come out of the bush. He hailed the Captain who drew rein and waited for him. He gasped out, 'I am starving to death. Can you help me? Can you give me some food?' The Captain said, 'Starving to death! Why don't you go into Richmond and get what you need?' The other answered, 'I dare not, for if I did I would be arrested. Three weeks ago, I became utterly disheartened and I deserted from the Confederate army, and I have been hiding in the woods ever since waiting for an opportunity to get through the lines to the north, for I knew if I were arrested I would be shot for deserting in time of war.' The Captain looked at him in amazement and said, 'Haven't you heard the news?' 'What news?' the poor fellow gasped.

'Why, the war is over. Peace has been made. General Lee surrendered to General Grant two weeks ago. The Confederacy is ended.' 'What?' he said, 'peace has been made for two weeks, and I have been starving in the woods because I did not know it?' Oh, that was the gospel of peace to him."

The reality was that the hostility was over, peace had ensued, but this soldier was not living in light of that peace, he still felt as though there were hostilities. Beloved, the spiritual peace of which Jesus spoke needs to be proclaimed to both believers and unbelievers alike. Peace is not a condition and for those who receive Jesus Christ, the reality of that peace is made efficacious by the grace of the Spirit of God.

The peace of the world is a peace built upon feelings and external circumstances. The world seeks and strives for peace however by generally ignoring what is wrong, or pretending

† The Heart of Christ ~ the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

“...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end”(John 13:1.)

nothing is wrong, or by keeping so busy as not to be confronted with the underlying animosities. Peace is not two parties that tolerate each other. True peace is two parties that once were enemies now being made the closest of friends. Such peace with God is not obtain by anything we do or say, but rather is given; such a peace is granted; such a peace is graciously bestowed upon those who believe...by those whose lives have evidenced the presence of Spirit, the awareness of the work of Christ and the assurance of the working of the Father in his life.

The world gives peace when we jump through the right hoops, say the right things, send in the right contributions; but Jesus gives peace when we have faith in who He is and what He has done. As S. Lewis Johnson has rightly noted, *“For the world in its state of rebellion and distrust, peace only comes through valium!”* But for the repentant sinner in a state of submission and trust in God, peace is his through Jesus Christ.

And just what is to be the result or the response of those who possess this conviction and condition of peace from Jesus Christ? Jesus here ends as the chapter began saying, **“Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”** Again we find that peace is not conditioned on how we feel, but how we feel is to be conditioned on what...the reality of the peace we have with God. I know that most of you are very familiar with the passage I am about to site, but hear it again with all that we have considered in mind as it reflects the teaching of Jesus here concerning peace. We read in Romans 8:31-39 –

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 Just as it is written, “FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.” 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Can you image living in light of such peace? How can we know and experience this peace? First, let me ask you...do you truly have the conviction that in Jesus, by being in right relationship with Jesus you then truly possess everything you need to live a godly life...that in Jesus you can find the strength to say no to sin; that in Jesus no matter what the world or even the devil throws at you, you will come out victorious. Is this not the promise of Scripture? In Philippians 4:13 we read, **“I can do all things through Him who strengthens [keeps pours His power in] me.”** Do you believe it? Anything that God wants you to accomplish, to be, to do? Just a few more verses down Paul adds these words, **“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches [as small as they are – ha] in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19).** Beloved, this is not an emotion, this is not a feeling...this is a fact...this is peace. This

The Heart of Christ ~ the message of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17)

“...having loved His own who were in the world, He love them to the end”(John 13:1.)

ought to be enough to encourage the most faltering, the most feeble, the most weak and the most hesitant to trust in the Lord. To experience the peace of Christ is to believe the power of Christ at work in you.

And to experience the power of Christ in you is to know that in Christ you are in continual fellowship with Him. Is this not what we have been reading in John 14...in verse 16, the Spirit with us forever; in verse 17 the Spirit with us and in us; in verse 20; the Father and Son in us; in verse 23, the Father and Son dwelling with us. Beloved, the presence and the power of the Holy Trinity dwells with, in and around us. If you are a believer and do not experience the peace with and of God, then spend more time with God. In Philippians 4:6 we are called to prayer, to communication with God. In Philippians 4:9 we are told to practice the things taught and communicated by Paul and then what... “the peace of God will be with you.” How’s your fellowship with the Lord? How is your prayer life? How is your time of hearing, reading and study of God’s word? Are you making time to fellowship, to be with other believers to talk about things of the Lord. Beloved, these things help us to be more aware of our inheritance of peace from the Lord Jesus.

Do you not know that He died on that cross; He bleed and suffered; He experience the wrath of God and separation from Him so that you might experience His peace; that settled conviction that God so loves you that He saved you and now empowers you to live for Him. This is our peace – may Jesus be our peace!

Soli Deo Gloria

Copyright © 2008 Edward K. Godfrey. This message is the sole property of the copyright holder and may be copied only in its entirety for circulation freely without charge. All copies of this message must contain the above copyright notice. This message may not be copied in part (except for small quotations used with citation of source), edited, revised, copied for resale or incorporated in any commercial publications, recordings, broadcasts, performances, displays or other products offered for sale, without the written permission of the copyright holder. Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to Edward K. Godfrey, Pastor, Hope Community Bible Church, and 2300 South 13th Street, Rogers, AR 72758.

**The Heart of Christ – the Message of the Upper Room Discourse – John 13-17
The Comforting Savior – in the provision of Christ – Precious Promises (John 14:25-31)
August 24, 2008**