

Peace in Every Circumstance

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: 2 Thessalonians 3.
- B. We need the spiritual resources to obey the commands we are given.
- C. We need the Lord's peace, strength, truth and grace.
- D. Paul wishes that the Thessalonians would experience God's peace.

II. Know God's peace.

- A. Peace is the attitude of calm when you believe everything is well according to the world.
 - 1. Real peace cannot be produced on a human level though.
 - 2. Worldly peace can be destroyed by many things.
- B. Spiritual peace is the attitude of the mind that knows that everything is right between a person and God.
 - 1. It is divine. God is the God of peace. Jesus is the Lord of peace. The Spirit is peace. (Ephesians 2:14, Colossians 1:20, Romans 14:20)
 - 2. It is a gift. (Psalm 85:8, John 20)
 - a. The seeming peace a sinner has comes from ignorance.
 - b. Real peace comes from the knowledge of redemption. (Romans 15:13)
 - c. True peace welcomes trials. (Romans 5:1)
- C. True peace is always available.
 - 1. It is uninterrupted when we trust in God. (Psalm 42:11, Leviticus 26:6)
 - 2. It is uninterrupted when we understand that God is reproofing. (Job 6; Romans 2:10; Galatians 5:22; 6:16; James 3:18; 1 Peter 3:11; Colossians 3:15)
- D. True peace is not subject to circumstances. (John 14:27)

III. Know God's strength.

- A. Christ will always be there to strengthen us. (Acts 17:27-28; Matthew 1; 28:20; John 14:23; Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 10:13)
- B. We need strength against temptation.

- C. We need strength against demons.
- D. We need strength to be faithful.
- E. We need strength to serve.
- F. We need strength to worship.
- G. We need strength for perseverance.
- H. We need strength for trials.
- I. We need strength for evangelism.
- J. We need strength for spiritual fullness.

IV. Know God's truth. (Romans 9:2, 2 Corinthians 10:2, John 17:17)

V. Know God's grace.

- A. Grace is God's goodness given to those who do not deserve it.
- B. It has appeared through the work of Christ. (1 Timothy 1, 2 Peter 3:18, 2 Corinthians 8:9)
- C. It takes all we have and all God is for our salvation.

Application Questions:

1. How would you differentiate true peace from false peace?

2. How would counsel someone struggling to find peace? Explain.

3. When have you experienced true peace? What can you learn from an experience like that?
