

Thursday, October 8, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."**

John 14: 27

You've seen the sign or the bumper sticker: "No Jesus, No Peace. Know Jesus, Know Peace." Not bad for a bumper sticker! It's true. True peace cannot be experienced without a relationship with Jesus. Why is that? Because things are pretty bad, but they are not as bad as they will get. "What!? Really? What do you mean?"

I mean that the Bible tells us that we ain't seen nothin' yet in terms of how far from God the world will drift. The Bible says,

"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power." 2 Timothy 3: 1-5

Have you ever read this verse before? There are others like it. God wants us to know the truth. He never sugarcoats the truth with us. He does, however, tell us that you and I will be okay if we just hang on to Jesus. But the peace that Jesus gives to us is the message that He is hanging on to us! He won't ever let us go. He doesn't want us to live with troubled hearts even though things will get rough. He's still and always will be in control.

Jesus' peace is not like the world's peace because it's not dependent on the circumstances of life. The miracle of the Christian Faith is that we can be "at peace" even when we are not living "amidst peace." This is because we know that whatever is going on in this world is on a leash. It will only go as far and as long as God allows it.

It's good to know this so that we are not taken by surprise when the world becomes more and more of a scary place to live. We aren't surprised because God didn't sugarcoat the truth with us. But He has said that **"(nothing) in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

This is the source of the **"peace that surpasses all understanding."** *Philippians 4: 7*

Jesus gives you His peace. His peace is this: He is Lord and you are His forever and ever.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim