

John 16:12-22

“Cling to the Hope!”

April 24, 2016

I read a book titled, “Jesus, Jihad and Peace.” It was a very good book until I got to the last chapter which was titled “God’s Peace Treaty.” I may have misread the author, but I came away feeling that the author felt that peace was an emotion. Instead we have learned from God’s Word that God peace is all about our relationship with Him. God the Father hates our sin. When Jesus Christ died on the Cross at Calvary, He paid for our sin. Now God the Father sees us through the veil of Christ’s blood and the Father is at peace with us. Therefore peace is not about us experiencing the emotion of peace. Peace is about God seeing us through the Blood of Christ shed on the Cross at Calvary and no longer hating us.

I don’t think that we realize how much God hates our sin. I don’t think we realize how much God loves us to make that sacrifice of His Son on the Cross at Calvary so that we might share eternity with Him. We need to look into God’s Word to hear the story of God’s hatred of our sin and of His love for us so that He willing to sacrificed His Son on the Cross at Calvary. We call God’s Word the Bible. There are many sources that reflect the Bible like the preaching I am doing today, but only the Bible is given by God to tell His story.

The third person of the Trinity is God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is one God and three persons. The Holy Spirit has been appointed by God the Father to work through the Apostles and the Prophets to tell us God's story. When Christ left this earth to sit at the right hand of the Father, the Holy Spirit came to remind us of all things through the inspiration that He gave to the Apostles and other writers of the New Testament. He told us Christ's story that we might find peace with God the Father.

While Christ's story can bring us peace with God, it can also bring us peace within ourselves. Remember Christ told us in John 14:1 that we could be anxious, but when we find ourselves anxious, we are to look up to Him and find His peace. In addition the next verse beyond our text invites us to ask Him for our needs and He will give them to us. Of course we have to ask through the heart of our faith. For example some people pray for money because they think that it will bring them peace in this life. We can have all the money in the world and we will not find peace because peace is not about us but about our relationship with God. We can live in terrible worldly poverty and heavenly peace will be ours because we trust in Jesus Christ. When we ask with the heart of faith, we realize we don't need to ask for money because our God will take care of us. He teaches us to be content in every and all circumstances in our lives.

The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father to call us to faith and keep us in the faith through the ups and downs of this life. The Holy Spirit was called by God to help us withstand the temptations of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh which seek to take that faith from us. The problem is that we have to listen to the Holy Spirit speak to us through the God's Word. The Holy Spirit will help us understand the things of God so that we know what we should and should not pray for. The Holy Spirit will help us keep our hope alive which will give us eternal peace.

In our text the Jesus Christ said; **“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”** In exploring this text, I ran across 1 Corinthians 3:2-3 where Paul said: **“I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”** In our sin, there are many times when we cannot understand the Words of God because of our sin. In our faith, God still loves us and gives us peace with Him even though we cannot find peace within ourselves because of our sin. Listen to the Holy Spirit in God's Word and work at changing our lives and we will find His worldly peace as well our eternal peace. Amen.