

GOD'S PEACE AMIDST COMING TROUBLE

Sunday, March 29, 2020 — Sheridan Hills Baptist Church — Pastor Andrew Coleman

JOHN 16:29-33

English Standard Version (ESV)

29 His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! 30 Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." 31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? 32 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

THE SETTING/CONTEXT OF THIS PASSAGE:

The night before Jesus's crucifixion. John chapters 13-18

Jesus celebrates **Passover (the Last Supper)** with his disciples in the 'upper room'

- Jesus washes their feet (13:1-20)
- Jesus reveals one will betray, Judas leaves (13:21-30)
- Jesus declares a new commandment: Love one another (13:31-35)
- Jesus reveals Peter will deny Him (13:36-38)
- Jesus begins comforting as He informs them of the coming hours, days, millennia
 - Jesus is going to the Father (14:1-14)
 - the Holy Spirit will come (14:15-31)
 - the disciples must abide/stay in Him (15:1-17)
 - the world will hate them (15:18 - 16:4)
 - the Holy Spirit will be working (16:5-15)
 - sorrow is coming but joy will follow (16:16-24)
 - Jesus assures He is victorious over all (16:25-33)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PASSAGE:

This is about **JESUS'S experience with the Father** (yet Trinitarian oneness)

This is about **OUR experience with God**

33 *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

NOTICE THE PATH TO GOD'S VICTORIOUS PEACE:

1st -- By the WORDS OF GOD we have the PRESENCE OF GOD.

I have said these things to you, that...

God cannot be separated from His words.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

- By His word all things are created. (ultimate power)
- By His word all things are decreed. (ultimate authority)
- By His word we believe/have faith. (ultimate grace)
- By His word we are saved. (ultimate redemption)
- By His word we are comforted. (ultimate peace)

2nd -- By the PRESENCE OF GOD we have the PEACE OF GOD.

that in me you may have peace.

- For the redeemed, God's presence brings peace.

Mark 4:38-40

38 But Jesus was in the stern of the boat, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke Him and said, "Teacher, don't You care that we are perishing?" 39 Then Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the sea. "Silence!" He commanded. "Be still!" And the wind died down, and it was perfectly calm. 40 "Why are you so afraid?" He asked. "Do you still have no faith?"

- For the unredeemed, God's presence brings wrath.
(In part, what we see happening today. Genesis 3; Romans 1:24, 26, 28)

3rd -- God's presence and His peace are WON BY HIS POWER.

But take heart; I have overcome the world.

This is why the meaning of 'Easter' or 'the Resurrection' is so enormous.

1st Corinthians 15:56-58

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable.

APPLICATION: TAKING STEPS TOWARD GOD'S PEACE.

1) PURSUE and BELIEVE HIS WORDS.

Know them. Repent and Believe in Him. Read, listen, study, meditate, memorize.

2) WAIT ON THE LORD -- pursue His presence.

Psalm 27:14; 31:24; 40:1; 130:5; Lamentations 3:25;

3) STAY WITH HIS PEOPLE -- the Church.

Hebrews 10:25 -- *let us not neglect meeting together... let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

Questions for Deeper Consideration of Sermon Message:

1) WHAT is the context (setting/situation) of John 16:33? HOW does knowing it guide our proper understanding of Jesus's words?

2) God ALWAYS says things for a reason. What are some possible reasons Jesus said what He said to the disciples in John chapters 14, 15, 16. (See the overview of these chapters on sermon outline).

Simply put... WHY does Jesus say these words to His disciples at the Last Supper?

3) How might these words have affected the Disciples in the next 3-5 decades of their lives? (Remember all of them except one -- the apostle John -- are believed to have been put to death for their faith and work in following Jesus.)

4) What does this passage say about TROUBLE and PEACE?

5) Is it pessimistic to say that trouble is always around us in one form or another? Some people seem to never have any troubles, is that perception correct? What is the difference in having a positive/optimistic approach to trouble as opposed to an approach to trouble based upon faith in God? CAN a biblically thinking Christian have both? SHOULD a biblically thinking Christian have both?

6) In light of John 16:33 how should I, if I am a Christian, approach the troubles of this world?

What actions, habits, and matters of prayer can help me do this faithfully?

SPEND TIME PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER TO HAVE FAITH & GODLY ACTION.