



Sunday Mar 20, 2022

Lakeland Hills Leader

“Peace Perfect Peace”

By Chuck Richardson

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS;
To give to His people the knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness of their sins,
Because of the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,
TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.” {Luke 1:76-79}

“Peace perfect peace” as the song is entitled, should be our desire. A perfect peace because it comes from the mercies of our God through His son Christ Jesus, though there be terrible affliction. [2Cor. 1:2-5] It seems every 80 to 100 years, nations foment trouble with one another resulting in war. Indeed “peace perfect peace”! When this is coupled with gross immorality, corruption, avarice, greed, and all kinds of rampant ungodliness, then it seems there will be no place for peace. The Christian can feel the pangs of uncertainty and devolve into despair and fear just as the rest, but it should not be. Peace perfect peace! We must take pages from Biblical history to find “peace perfect peace”.

Joseph (Genesis 39) is a standout example of a man with “peace perfect peace”. As a young man transitioning from youth to manhood, he was callously sold by his brothers to slave-traders. After achieving favor through diligence in duty, working faithfully as unto the Lord, he is ensnared by his master’s wife, but he wouldn’t commit such a crime against his master and especially this great evil against God. For his conviction, he is cast into prison, and remained incarcerated for at least two full years (41). “Peace perfect peace”!

David (2 Samuel 11&12) maintained a disposition of peace, though his peace came at a price for his sins. David had committed adultery, impregnated his paramour, and finally covered up his sin by murdering her husband, who was no less sincerely loyal to king David. So, the Lord sent the prophet Nathan to reveal that God is aware of his sin(s), and to David’s credit, he accepted his guilt with remorse. Nathan had to tell David, *However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die.*” (2sam. 12:14) Through his actions during the dying of the child, we see the “peace perfect peace” attitude of David. David perplexed his court when he would not eat, and lay all night on the ground praying in constant supplication, then, *And they said, “He is dead.” So, David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he came to his own house, and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate.* (2Sam. 12:20) David’s actions confused them, but David explained simply and succinctly that when the child lived there was hope, but since the child was dead, he could do nothing more for the child, but go to him some day, “for he cannot come to me.” This, my friend, is the design of “peace perfect” peace.

But the best example is Jesus for “peace perfect peace”. See His calm resolve even in the emotive moments of the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46). Witness His quiet spirit, and sparing speech, during the cruel interrogation (Mark 14:55-65). Even Pilate was perplexed at Jesus’ calm and direct answer to the heart of the issue in the face of the likely sentence of death (John 18 & 19). Though Pilate made some effort to release

Jesus, at the last the political reality overruled justice and righteousness, but this is no surprise, since neither the Jewish leaders nor the Roman governor valued either. Jesus would be killed primarily by an envious leadership and a stirred-up mob. Jesus was the epitome of “Peace Perfect Peace”!

So in the final analysis, we can learn from these that through all the trouble, trials, and dangers attacking us, we can have “peace perfect peace”. How? Through our fixation on the things above (Col. 3:1-5), sharing our burdens with others (Gal. 6:2; Act. 16:25), dedicated cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25), with a devoted spirit one to another as a transformed man (Rom. 12), rejoicing vigilantly prayer in all supplication and thanksgiving for this is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus without anxiety for the Lord is indeed near (1The. 5:16-18; Phi. 4:5-7) This is the Designer’s plan for us to have that peace, “Peace Perfect Peace”!

* "If we had no failings ourselves, we should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others!"

* "Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith!"

* "The selfish man suffers more from his selfishness than he from whom that selfishness withholds some important benefit!"

* With regard to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, remember this: "Nothing escapes the Lord's notice, and no one operates outside of the Lord's jurisdiction!"