

THE PROMISED GIFT

Discussion Questions

12.1.19

THE GIFT OF PEACE

The prince of peace entered a troubled world to provide a peace unaffected by such trouble.

1. In light of today's message, how would you define peace? How has your definition of peace been developed in light of what you heard today?
2. God's people sought peace through negotiation, elimination, and pontification (talking about it) when what they needed to do was contemplate on the God of peace (Isaiah 26:3). In troubling seasons of your life, which of these responses is more or less your default response? Why do you think that is?
3. In troubling seasons God "keeps" us. How could thinking about keeping in the sense of God "stepping in to guard the besieged", an idea present in both Old and New Testaments, be an encouragement to you in times of trouble?
4. We can't have the peace of God until we have received peace with God. Have you received peace with God through grace by faith? If not, pray Romans 10:9 now and tell share this with someone you trust. If so, spend a moment thanking the Prince of Peace for bearing our trouble in his body (Isaiah 55:4-6).
5. God is peace and this attribute is a communicable attribute, meaning that this attribute can be your experience too (Galatians 5:22-23). How real are the fruits of peace and self-control in your life? Depending on your experience, what hinders that being experienced more fully or what helped you "get over the line"?
6. In light of Colossians 3:15, in troubling seasons how will you respond positively to God's plea that his peace umpires between your weakness and his powerful provision?
7. What spiritual practices can you cultivate to experience more of God's peace in your life.
8. In light of today's message, what can you do to help you cultivate a mind-set that views "benedictions" like Numbers 6:24-26 and 2 Thessalonians 3:16 as an invitation to avail yourself of God's grace and peace?

Key OLD TESTAMENT Scriptures

Numbers 6:24-26 • Exodus 34:12
2 Chronicles 34:12 • Ezra 13:10 • Micah 5:3
Jer. 6:14; 8:15; 14:19; 16:5 • Ps. 119:165
Isaiah 2:1-5; 9:6; 26:3; 53:4-6

Key NEW TESTAMENT Scriptures

Hebrews 13:20-21 • Ephesians 6:15
Romans 5:1,10 • John 14:27; 16:33
Galatians 5:22-23 • Philippians 4:7, 9-13
Colossians 3:15 • Matthew 5:9 • James 3:18
2 Thessalonians 3:16