

**The Patio Pulpit For August 18, 2021**  
**“Peace” and “Shalom”**  
**εἰρήνη, שְׁלוֹמַי**  
**The Peace That Passes All Understanding**

“All we are saying, is give peace a chance.”

\*Breaking news from the New York Post: the Taliban have just executed a woman in public for not wearing the Burqa in public after they had just promised to play nice with their women and girls.

That song was written by the late John Lennon way back in 1969 during the Vietnam War and then released as a 45 in July 1970. John Lennon is the same former Beatle who wrote the reprehensible but highly popular, “Imagine.” The Beatles were known for their antireligious bent, unless one calls Buddhism a religion, or Hinduism, or weedism (I just made that word up.) Buddhism, by the way, does not refer to itself as a religion. It requires having a god to be religious and Buddhism does not have a god. I guess Hinduism is a huge religion since it has around 300 million gods.

Many of us wanted what John Lennon wrote about in that song.

I can honestly say that I had never given peace a second thought, much less a chance, until I saw the war protestors on television demanding peace back in the mid ‘60’s. And then I only heard it with any understanding because of the context, which was, of course, the war.

If you’re looking for peace in our world, you are in for a rude awakening. Case in point, Islamists and the fall of Afghanistan over the past 10 plus days. After almost 1500 years of Islam, we have seen that peace does not mean the same thing to the Muslim as it does to the disciples of Christ, or most of the free world for that matter. Islamic peace means peace for Muslims, only there is no such thing. Muslim on Muslim violence is their way of life. The Sunni Muslims hate the Shia Muslims and actively seek to annihilate each other. That has been going on since the death of their false prophet Muhammad in 632AD, who caused Muslim-on-Muslim killings all because he didn’t have the foresight to designate his successor or how his deceived disciples were to go about choosing his line of successors ad infinitum.

The Lord Jesus said the world will always know war and He didn't speak war into existence, He was giving the world some insight into the nature of fallen humanity (Mt. 24:6-7). Wars did not begin with Islam but it may very well be that wars will end with the final destruction of the armies of the antichrists on the plain of Meggido. And Islam is the leading religion of the antichrist followed by many other religions and ideologies that deny that Jesus is the Son of God.

Before world peace can happen, something absolutely miraculous would have to precede it, man's nature would have to be changed. And there's only one way that can happen and even then, it's a partial change. Those who are in Christ are new creations or new creatures by the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit, but we are left in these sinful and corrupt human bodies. We are still capable of committing the most heinous sins imaginable. It comes down to those individuals who are in Christ to experience the inner peace that passes all understanding. Our peace is not tied to the absence of conflict. It is inextricably tied to the One who is our peace. There will be no everlasting peace until the Day of Judgment is done and we are rejoicing in the Trinity's presence in glory.

**However**, every disciple of Christ has the everlasting peace of Christ within us right now. And that's where I will concentrate for these brief moments tonight. Jesus said to His apostles/disciples,

*<sup>27</sup> "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. (Jn. 14:27 NAU)*

**Notice this, "His peace is spiritual, supernatural and divine."**

How can anyone "leave" peace with anyone? And yet He did. He did it when He poured out the Spirit on all flesh who come to Him by the grace and love and mercy of God. <sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

*<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23 NAU)*

Remember this? <sup>6</sup> *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:6-7 NAU)*

And that is why I have pointed out that the peace of Christ is spiritual, supernatural and divine. When we are in the midst of some our worst trials, we can experience this kind of peace. It can blow our minds.

**Second, It is His peace, not man's and not the world's.**

*"My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."*

I have already made my case for the world's understanding, or should I say, misunderstanding of peace. The world's idea of peace is **generally** limited to the absence of conflict. The Lord's idea of peace is peace in the absence of and in the midst of conflict.

**Third, Jesus gives us His peace His way, not the way the world gives.**

*"My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."*

And how, pray tell, does the world give peace? Not everything about how the world gives is negative, not everything the world has to say about peace is wrong. The world knows the benefits of peace. Their trouble is they know neither the meaning of peace or its source or how to attain true peace.

**And I close with this, The peace Jesus gives sets itself as a sentinel over our hearts and minds.**

<sup>6</sup> *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

I can rest in what the Bible says about the peace that Jesus has left His disciples. Beloved, we need to own those truths at this moment.