

Week 24 - Applying the Word to Our Daily Lives

Tuesday

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:29-31; Rom. 14:17; Eph. 2:13-17; Col. 3:15

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces.” For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.” Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good ” (Psa. 122:6-9)

THE NEED FOR PEACE IN THE CHURCH LIFE

In order to have a church life full of enjoyment, we need peace; otherwise, we cannot move forward. Hence, we need to allow Christ to be the arbitrator of our heart. In other words, instead of judging and holding on to our reasonings, we should allow Christ to have the final say (Col. 3:15). In the Middle East, for instance, there is not much progress because there is no peace. Having endured intense periods of war in the past, countries such as Japan and Germany have progressed and developed during the peaceful times that followed. Today, these two countries are among the world’s most advanced nations.

Ephesians 2:13-14 reads, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.” The term both here refers to the Jews and the Gentiles. In order to have peace in the church, we need to realize that the Lord has already broken down the wall of enmity. This needs to be a reality in the church life, for the wall has indeed fallen.

The Lord “abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace” (Eph. 2:15). Peace is mentioned yet a second time in this chapter. The Lord is our peace, and He is the One who brings in peace. On the cross, Christ crucified sin, sins, the world, Satan, the old man and the old ordinances.

These ordinances are a great hindrance for the church, mainly among the serving ones, as each one has his own way of doing things. These ordinances, which originate in the soul-life, have already been eliminated by Christ: “And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near” (Eph. 2:16-17).

In order to grow in number, the church needs peace. If there is peace in the church, people will come.

Let us read Romans 14:17: “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” The phrase “eating and drinking” here refers to personal preferences.

Some eat meat, others eat vegetables and so on. The kingdom of God, however, is righteousness. As for righteousness, it refers to doing God’s will and living a peaceful life at home and with our brothers. Once there is righteousness, we have peace, and with peace there is joy. In this environment, “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7).

Key Point:

Let the peace of Christ arbitrate in our hearts.

Your Key Point:

Question:

What happens when there is peace in a certain place?