

A Peace to Guard and A Guard of Peace

"The peace of God will Guard your hearts and Minds in Christ Jesus"

Last week we shared about the peace we have experienced in our lives as Christians. We learned that we could only have true peace when we have peace with God. And the only way we can have peace with God is through faith in Jesus Christ. **Can you think of a time just this past week where you allowed the peace of God to guard your heart or mind?**

Introduction

Have you ever been in a situation of doubt in your Christian walk, and you discover the peace that you had, starts to slip away? Is this God letting down the guard of peace, or is this our own failing to guard the peace we have?

Dig into the Word

When we as Christians think of blessings, we often think of the physical, but blessings of God are so much more than just material possessions. The peace we have with God is **a spiritual blessing from Him.**

Think of how you guard other blessings God has given you. Ex. Children, Marriage

Read Psalm 29:11. **How can this fact encourage us to guard the blessing of peace we have with God?**

Sometimes in our walk with God, we may ask, "Why don't I have peace? How can I have the peace I once had?" Maybe we missed guarding the peace we had.

Read Psalm 34:14. **How does this verse relate to times when we feel we don't have peace?**

When we are right with God and we have peace with God, it branches out to relationships we have with others.

Read Proverbs 16:7. It may seem like an opposite reaction, but **have you ever experienced peace with those who seem to be your enemies?**

Read Romans 12:18. Are there exceptions to who we need to be at peace with? Paul wrote, "be at peace with *all* men." **How can we be at a place where we are at peace with all men at least on our own side of things?**

Do you have a life example of a time you knew God wanted you to make peace with someone where there was no peace?

Let's go back to that word "pursue" we saw in Psalm 34:14. Now let's read Romans 14:19. This was written for Christians.

What do you think the "things" could be in this verse that we are to pursue, which make for peace and the building up of one another? Here are some ideas – maybe you have more...

- ❖ Pray with someone who is anxious about life
- ❖ Taking time for someone who is at odds with others
- ❖ Overlooking an offending statement
- ❖ Avoiding causing a brother or sister to stumble in an area where you are strong and they are weak.
- ❖ Choosing to gently respond to an angry word
- ❖ Letting someone in traffic have a taste of your kind heart rather than your impatience.
- ❖ Offering a favor to someone
- ❖ Gently reproofing your children rather than doing so with exasperation
- ❖ _____ (fill in your own)

Of this list of "things", what would God want you to pursue this week?

Jesus says in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. What an awesome privilege to be called sons of God. Let's be peacemakers!"