

Introduction

We come to the end of a wonderful discourse. Jesus has been teaching men about his coming death. He has told them of all his intentions, as he brings it to close with a shout of victory.

I. These things

Jesus is bringing his message to a conclusion by saying, "These things I have spoken unto you." Immediately there comes a question, "What Things?" What has he been talking about? We briefly review some of the things he has said in this message in the upper room.

✓ Chapter 14 note some of the highlights of some of the things which He said to them, "The place of many mansions." "Let not your heart be troubled." And then in verse 4 through 11 He talked about, being unknown, and yet He was well known. That He represented God, and that He was God's representative here on earth. Then in verse

II. The purpose

He now comes to tell them why He has spoken these things, and the purpose behind this discourse, this message, which He has given them. "I have told you these things so that in me you may have perfect peace and confidence." So here is the purpose. Inward peace, "That ye might have peace." This is the opposite of tribulation, battle. These two are at opposite poles. He promises a peace which will exist even at the same time you are having tribulations. This seems to be an impossibility, but He said, "In the midst of disturbance, there will be a peace which you will realize." Even in the conflict and struggle of life you will realize the peace, inward. The tree will stand with its deep roots, unmoved though the winds may toss its branches and scatter its leaves.

He is talking about the inner life when He compares the trouble we have in the world he says that is only the surface, but this peace which exists, with and is realized through strife, depends upon certain conditions.

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12 through 15, he talked about his works and the works of the disciples, and how they were to talk with him.

Verse 16 through 19 he discussed how He was to be absent and yet present at the same time.

Verse 20 through verse 24 He tells them what brings and what repels Christ.

In verse 25 through 27 He discusses the teacher's spirit how the spirit would come with peace and then the last verses of Chapter 14, 28 through 31, the roots of Christ's departure are unfolded in these verses.

We continue to think about these things as we come to Chapter 15, you will note in verse 1 through 6 that He talks about the vine "I am the true vine." And He unfolds the relationship of the disciples to Him. Then in the next few verses, He continues to amplify what He has said about the vine and the fruit. Then He begins to talk about laying down His life for them.

Verse 14 through 20, He discusses how friendship with Him will create hostility. Then the last verses of this chapter, He talks about the world's hostility is interrupted. Interrupted because of his work. And He concludes the last two verses of that chapter by telling them how to meet the hostile world.

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This brings us to Chapter 16, thinking still about these things, He begins this Chapter with the same words, "These things have I spoken unto you." And He goes on to tell them some good reasons as to His mission, and some reasons that they are to remember.

And then the (facts which convince the world) verse 7 through 11, He tells how the Holy Spirit will convince the world with certain facts.

Verse 12 - 15 He talks about (a trusted guide) They will be able to rely upon the Holy Spirit.

Verse 16 - 22, He talks about (sorrow being turned into joy.)

Verse 23 - 27, What that day will bring forth.

Verse 28 (From the Father to the Father) He gives a summary of the Gospel in a nutshell.

Verse 29 - 32 the disciples confessions and some predictions by Jesus. How the disciples had come to understand what He was talking about, and then He said, "I'm not alone, but God the Father is with me."

"These things I have spoken unto you." So you see a brief review will unfold for us the discourse of Jesus in the upper room. And these are the things that He is referring to in this statement.

spiritual disturbances, from passion. Freedom from a sense of guilt, or calmness. And so peace may be described as many different things.

But the (peace) which God gives is freedom from a sensation of war or hostilities against God. Every soul has been at war with God, and therefore every soul must have peace with God. We must realize and acknowledge that the war exists, that we are wrong and that God is right, and that God will not impose Himself upon us. And this is why Jesus is speaking of these things. Because it is of importance and God has made peace and that no other peace can be made except that which has already been made.

The Lord has ordained these for us. This means that it is by an act of power and authority. You may wish a thing, you may promise a thing, but a king ordains, and what he ordains is supported by all the resources of his kingdom and will be accomplished. By the (Heavenly Father) we have the promise that from the King of Kings that peace will come to us. (Moses) tells us that God ordained the sign and the season, and David said, "that the word of God is settled in heaven forever." That He is faithful unto all generations, that He has established it

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"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye may have..."

It is a (possibility then) it is peace if we have it all in Him. Now if you remember that our Lord spoke to these disciples and he has the same message for you. We are in Him, as in the atmosphere. In Him our true lives are rooted as a tree in the soil. We are in Him as a (branch in the vine.) He told us back in chapter 15, that "I am the vine, ye are the branches." We are in Him as members in a body. We are in Him, as the (residents) in a house. We are in Him by (simple faith) by the trust that rests upon Him, the love that finds all in Him. Christ is the one that we rest and realize peace through. So even in trouble the world may give us excitement, this is a fleeting joy. There is only one thing that gives peace, and that is that our hearts shall dwell in the fortress surrounded by Jesus Christ.

Nothing tempts us down from the heights, out from the place where we are protected. There may be pressing duties, there may be cares, there may be anxieties, there may be temptations; But, we will never be a slave to it, because our roots are deep in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "I have spoken all of this, that I might bring you peace." And what could be greater than for them to come to realize, "I go to prepare a place for you, but will come again and receive you unto myself." Should anything be able to disturb us, or destroy our confidence, as we think about the words of Jesus. Whatever the storms may be around the heart will be at rest.

Of course, we know that this peace is based upon faith, therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus God, (Roman 5:1). This is a result of being justified.. This is the most sought after thing in the world.

We might suggest this evening something that men spend their time grieving. It is money. A man says I will be happy when I save up \$1,000. He saves the thousand and he says, "I would like to have \$5,000." So he gets the five. Then he wants \$10, then he wants \$50, and soon he sets a goal for \$100, when he reaches the \$100, he want 1/2 million, and when he reaches that he wants a million. Then soon he wants to get \$10,000, the more he gets the more he wants.

We might take something else that men seek after, such as power. You elect a man to be Sheriff and it is not long before he thinks that he ought to be in the State legislature. You elect him to the state legislature, and it is not long before he feels that he ought to be a Congressman. And then if he is fortunate enough to reach Washington, he wants to be a Senator. And as he gets to be a Senator, then he thinks he ought to be put in as a president. And if he gets to be president, he wants to be president twice. What does this prove? That it is not mere place of power that the man is seeking, but something else which he believes success and power will bring him. Now we go from human achievement and effort, from one thing to another. It may be possessions, it may be education, it may be  fame, it may be wealth, it may be success. But do these things really bring men what they want.

Our God has called Himself the God of Peace. In the dictionary, we find ten or 15 different definitions for peace. It is described as freedom from the sensation of war hostility, freedom from the disturbance, it is described as quiet, undisturbed. Freedom from mental,

### III. Predictions

Jesus next makes some predictions and gives a sad warning. "In the world ye shall have tribulations..." Now this applies to all men. Pain and sickness, loss and death, hard times, toils, disappointments, all of these Jesus said will be the lot of man. This also will happen to men of all types.

He even says this will be the lot of good men because they are Christians. That is to say, in this world, you will have tribulations. It has already started because of your faith. And so we see that the Christian life will be faced with constant conflict. Who ever realizes the inward life in Christ will more or less and sooner or later find himself coming into hostile collision with lives which only move on the surface and belong to the world. If you and I are Christians, after the pattern of Jesus Christ then we may expect troubles.

All that you labor to secure, the world does not care to possess. If you have Christ as your aim, all that you live to seek the world has abandoned. Christian lives will have opposition, you cannot get away from the necessity of facing this. No doubt the more the world is penetrated by Christian principles, the harder the difficulty.

in the earth and it will abide. And so this peace which David said, "How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." How valuable is peace between individuals? Peace in a nation? In a church? In a family? Solomon said, "It is better to have a dinner made up of herbs, where love is than a stalled ox, and hatred therewith."

Peace may be temporal, but God ordained it for His people an inward peace. You may study the case of Jacob and Esau, and you will realize the type of peace they enjoyed.

Spiritual peace is implied here. What is a fine mansion? What is wealth and friendship? And what is everything agreeable here, while there is discord within? The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit, who can bear? On the other hand, it matters not what troubles a man, may be in if he has this peace. He may be cast down, but he is not destroyed.

It is not the water outside the vessel, it is a wide ocean that will sink it, but that which seeps within will do the damage. So Jesus talks about peace that can be enjoyed in the midst of trouble. This man, Jesus, talks about peace that surpasses all understanding. This is to be the experience of Christians, and we may experience

it in varying degrees. It is compared therefore, as a river, as it flows it becomes wider and deeper as it approaches the sea. So as these disciples come to understand the peace of God they will have their knowledge increased as they near eternity. God calls upon us to witness this. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright. For the end of that man is peace." Peace in the exit, in the departure. There remaineth a rest for the people of God. The rest of the Sabbath from the toils of the week. The rest of Canaan after the marching, and after the wilderness. And so it will be welcome the many mansions of which Jesus started his message with.

This peace is different from the peace that David prayed for in Jerusalem. This peace is different from the peace that Joseph said, "God shall give parash an answer of peace." It meant welfare for prosperity. It is not every kind of knowledge that increases happiness. Because knowledge may often increase sorrow. But Jesus came and preached peace to them that were a far off and to them which were neigh. We read the gospel of peace Jesus is called the Prince of Peace, and God is called the God of Peace.

This peace is not for the wicked, but for the righteous. "Thou shall keep Him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee."

It is the will of Christ that his disciples should have the peace within.

Peace in Christ is the only true peace, and in Him alone believers have it. For this man shall be the peace." (Micah 5:5) Through him we have peace with God. The word of God aims at this.

We might compare John 14:27, John 15:11, John 16:1&2 "True peace, rest of soul has (its source in Christ) That those who are in Him as the living branches are in the vine."

Therefore it is important that we understand the purpose of this message, in summary, "That ye may keep on having Jesus in me, even when I am put to death." Peace is to be found, but it will be found nowhere else except in me."

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closing part of this message He said, "There is a victory." Or, He says, "I have overcome."

This is emphatic, you have overcome the world. This is a consolation, "I have overcome the world."

In what does the victory of Jesus consist? He neither has suffered as yet, but He was stating that immediately He was to suffer, overcome by means of death. He was talking as though it had already been completed,

Christ has been gaining and is now gaining more and more, and is certain to make a perfect victory in the garden and on the cross. He had conquered all the inward and outward ~~sin~~ the spirit had led him into the wilderness, and yet from the very first to the last, He was victorious. And at this point we discover that all the stations of his life were filled with the words, "more than conquers."

It is your privilege to share the Master's victory, "I have overcome the world, be of good cheer." What does it matter to you if Jesus has overcome the world?

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But there is the (gulf) and there it will stop.

When we think about how some Christians have lowered the standards so much that no longer do they have opposition, but we know those who live for Christ will meet the world's opposition. Those who live out and out for Christ will be spoken of as impractical, spoiling the sport, or a wet blanket, and other pretty words, Men that try to live like Jesus Christ.

Never mind, Jesus said the world will be against you and if you say that I am bearing the marks of the Lord Jesus, you will be testifying to your owner.

The entertainment that you will meet in the world is outward. Men will persecute you because you are good, He said. (II Timothy 3:12) Reproach persecution. In the world, does not mean in harmony with the world, but the world in which they live is regarded as the source in which their tribulation takes place.

Picture a Bird on Rocky Ledge  
Secure - no fear - wild foaming waves dash  
at the foot of her retreat

Believer can sit in heavenly places  
in this troubled world without fear.

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IV. Encouragement (Acts 26:15, Matthew 9:2, Mark 10:40)

"Be of good cheer." Not only be of good comfort, but be of good courage. Have a good heart and all shall be well. In the midst of tribulation in this world it is the duty and interest of Christ's disciples to be in good cheer. To keep up a delight whatever is present, and their hope in God whatever is threatening, and sorrowful indeed in compliance with the temper of the climate. (II Corinthians 6:10, Romans 5:3)

"Take heart be encouraged," He said. This sounds like the old commandment that was sounded to Joshua when Moses departed. He was to conduct the war and it all fell into less-experienced hands. "Be strong and of good courage, Only be thou strong and very courageous."

So the captain of our salvation, leading his soldiers to fight in the field, like some leader climbs up high above his soldiers to watch, or comes down into the midst and seeks to work his way through the broken ranks of the enemy. So there is the ringing call of encouragement; and this encouragement is, "Be of good cheer."

The Lord's life was a real battle, the world tried to drive Him away from God in the wilderness He faced

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temptations and He conquered all of these conflicts. We do not appreciate the force and drive of all that Jesus had conquered.

V. Declaration

In this closing part He comes to make a proclamation or declaration of victory. I John 5:4, John 19:30, Romans 8:37.

This is a type of all-victorious life, world conquers me when he draws me away from God. When it makes me a slave, when it gets me to trust it. To despair of Christ, the world conquers when we become absorbed in our own selfish ends. But, we are to conquer these temptations unless we are careful, he will draw us away from Him.

This is a lesson for the people of South Norfolk, that Jesus Christ was not a successful man according to men here in this city. He made a poor thing of the world. He went to the cross, and the day after He said these words, He was hanging on a cross. And yet



"What good is this to you?" you might ask.

It may age you somewhat in the strenuous fight it will help you to become victorious. But it will be of little practical use to you unless you go deeper than you are now.

My friends, (Jesus Christ's victory is ours) and we are victors in it, because He is more than the pattern or brave warfare, He gave himself and He still gives Himself to us and simple reliance upon Him, and upon His, is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith.

1st War Allied Women adopted the singing slogan - "Believe Victory! Think V, March V, Live V!"

Christ adopted this years ago -

S. D. Gordon - reminds us of Bunyan's sweet words - "The Pilgrim they laid in a chamber whose window opened towards the rising sun. The name of that chamber was peace, & there he slept till the break of day." Eternal Peace! This may be yours! You too may lay down to sleep with faith for a pillow & contentment for a couch!