

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS
by
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Thou Preparest a Table Before Me in the Presence of Mine Enemies (Psalm 23:5)

The Psalmist, David, was blessed with the revelation that God Almighty would (not try to) provide a table at which he could sit down and partake of a meal in “peace” in the midst of his enemies.

This is a supernatural peace that God alone can provide his people in the midst of spiritual as well as worldly conflict. Do we really believe that our sovereign God shall provide a place to sit in safety and peace in the midst of the battle? This peace that God grants his children is something about which the worldling knows nothing.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14: 27). Our Lord Jesus also said in the first verse of the referenced chapter, “Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.” May our hearts be free from heaviness and fear.

David penned, “I am for peace, but when I speak they are for war” (Psa. 120: 7).

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee” (Isa. 26:3). When the believer in Christ takes his focus off the person of our Lord Jesus Christ, the “peace of God” begins to dwindle.

The disciple, Peter, had perfect peace when told to step out of the ship upon the waters of the sea, yet when he began to look around and see the waves and realize the depth of the waters, his peace began to flee. "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to SINK, he cried, saying, Lord, save me" (Matt. 14:30).

In the midst of despair, the Lord stretched forth his hand, and caught him. When we, as God's people, loose sight of the all sufficiency of Christ in our walk here below, we, as well, shall find ourselves AFRAID and in great despair, then be driven to cry out to our beloved Master, "Lord save me lest I perish." As we as God's children persevere through this world of sin and woe here below, we are often confronted with trials.

Peter writes after his life-changing conversion on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost took His abode within the heart mind and soul of the dear apostle, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again into a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not way, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations; That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto the praise and honor and glory at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls" (I Peter 1: 3-9).

May God's divine elect heritage be blessed with that sweet promise of "Peace past understanding" in the midst of disappointment, discouragement and the often afflictions of the mind and body for the praise and glory of Christ Jesus of whom we have to do. "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor THINGS TO COME, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the LOVE of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39).

June 15, 2008 (Lord's Day)