

GREAT PEACE HAVE THEY WHICH LOVE THY LAW: AND NOTHING SHALL OFFEND THEM. (PSALM 119:165)

(John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.)

Sermon to the servants of the Most High God at Westboro Baptist Church on October 13, 2024.

On his way to be crucified, our Lord Jesus Christ was delivering his last sermon on earth to his Disciples, and he explains why in **John 16:33**: *“These things have I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* This is the context: **John 13:1**: *“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”*

These things have I spoken unto you.

This is the conclusion of his sermons to his Disciples, and this is a reference to all of those sermons. Ben did an extensive exposition of these sermons which you can find and read at Westboro Baptist Church web page. (Search Ben’s series on Jesus Christ’s “Farewell Discourse;” beginning in July, 2020, and 19 sermons later ending December, 2022). Jesus Christ’s sermons include his departure from them, his going to prepare a place for them, his union to them, his communion with them; the various persecutions and afflictions which they should endure for his sake; and the many blessings of both grace and glory that they should enjoy. The immediate context is their forsaking of him, and the tribulation which would result, and would be a prelude of what they afterward would have in the world. Also he told them about the fact that he would have the presence of his Father with him, as they should expect also to have. *“Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? Behold the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone because the Father is with me.”* (**John 16:31-32**).

Zechariah 13:7: *“Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.”*

Matthew 26:31: *“Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.”*

Matthew 26:56: *“ But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”*

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Mark 14:27: “*And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.*”

Mark 14:50: “*And they all forsook him, and fled.*”

That in me ye might have peace.

John Gill says on this section of this verse: “not in the world, in which they were to have tribulation: there is no true solid peace, to be enjoyed in the world, and the things of it; the world can neither give it, nor take it away; nor have the men of it any knowledge and understanding of it; and much less enjoy it: nor in themselves; spiritual peace does not arise from any duties, services, and performances of men; but from Christ, in whose strength alone all duties are performed aright; who is the sum and substance of the Gospel, and the ordinances of it, and the object of all grace: it is in him, and in him only, in his person, blood, righteousness, and sacrifice, which speak peace, pardon, and atonement, that a soul finds any true, solid peace, rest, comfort, and joy; and here he may, and does find it, in opposition to the cry of sin, law and justice, for wrath, ruin, hell and damnation. There is peace by Christ, which he has made for his people by the blood of his cross; and there is a peace in him, which is enjoyed through faith’s looking to his blood for pardon, to his righteousness for justification, to his sacrifice for atonement and satisfaction; and by having communion with him, and discoveries of his love, and by seeing safety and security in him.”

And, these verses help expound upon this peace:

John 14:27: “*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.*” Significant to this verse, is the immediate context: “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*” (**John 14:26**). Of course bringing to our remembrance whatsoever our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word, has said, and our faith in those words is the true source of our peace.

Psalm 85:8-11: “*I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven.*” This and other verses teach that God is the source of all peace. See also these verses: **Psalm 29:11:** “*The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.*” **Isaiah 57:19:** “*I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.*” **2 Thessalonians 3:16:** “*Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.*” Christ’s

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righteousness being imputed and applied to men, and received by faith produces a conscience peace, an inward peace of mind which *“passeth all understanding”* **Philippians 4:7**.

Isaiah 9:6-7: *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*

The Prince of Peace. Christ is often called a Prince. For example: **Ezekiel 34:24, Ezekiel 37:25, and Daniel 9:25**. He is a Prince by birth, being the King’s Son, the Son of God. He is the *“prince of the kings of the earth.”* **Revelation 1:5**. He is a Prince by office, power, and authority; he is so a Prince as that he is a King. **Acts 5:31**: *“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”* He is called the *“Prince of peace,”* because he is the author of peace; just as he is said to be the *“Prince of life,”* **Acts 3:15**. He is the author of peace between God and sinners; he has made it by the blood of the cross, having the chastisement of their peace laid upon him. *“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”* **Isaiah 53:5**. This is a consequence of a covenant of peace he made with his Father on behalf of the beneficiaries of that covenant (e.g., **Malachi 2:5**). He is giver of peace (e.g., **Haggai 2:9**), temporal and eternal. **Romans 14:17**: *“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”* The scepter of his kingdom is the golden scepter of grace and mercy. (**Esther 4:11, 5:2, and 8:4**) His royal proclamation is the Gospel of peace (**Romans 10:15 and Ephesian 6:15**). The fruit of his Spirit is peace (**Galatian 5:22**); and his subjects are peaceable ones (**2 Samuel 20:19**). **Hebrews 7:2**: *“To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace.”* **2 Thessalonian 3:16**: *“Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.”*

Micah 5:5: *“And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.”* *“This man”* is that same person spoken of in **Micah 5:2**: *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”*

Luke 2:14 *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”*

Romans 5:1-2: *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”*

Ephesians 2:14-17: *“For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.”* The last part of this verse quotes **Isaiah 57:19:** *“I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.”*

Colossians 1:20: *“And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”*

Hebrews 7:2: *“To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace[.]”*

Hebrews 13:20-21: *“Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

In the world ye shall have tribulation.

Strong’s on tribulation at John 16:33, gives these definitions: tribulation, affliction, trouble, anguish, burdened, to be afflicted, an afflicting, a pressing, pressing together, pressure, and metaphorically oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straight, pressing upon the spirit, a narrow, confined space, denoting affliction as arising from cramping circumstances, press hard upon, narrow and straitened, a compressed way, contracted, to press as a grape.

I’ve not pressed grapes for making wine, but if I were to do so I would squeeze every drop of grape juice out of every grape.

John 15:19-21: *“In ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me.”* Gill: *“For their further consolation under the hatred of the world, he puts them in mind of a saying of his, which he had lately used, #Joh 13:16; to teach them humility, self-denial, and brotherly love,* October 13, 2024: *1 Peter 2:8: And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

and elsewhere, as in #Mt 10:24; for the same purpose as here; namely, to engage them patiently to bear the hatred of men, and all indignities and insults from them, for his name's sake." The expression, "if they kept my saying, they will keep yours also," the commentators suggest relates to how with Christ they put a close watch on his words to find fault and to accuse and rail upon him because of his words; and this certainly comports with our own experiences in preaching Christ's words. They mock our words like they mocked Christ's words.

Acts 14:22: *"Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."*

In further help on what "much tribulation" means, I refer you to these verses, which teach that the tribulation will arise in the overcoming of our own evil hearts, and externally, pressure and affliction from all sources, including those near and dear:

Matthew 19:24: *"And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a richman to enter into the kingdom of God."*

Mark 9:47: *"And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire[.]"*

Mark 10:24-25: *"And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."*

Matthew 10:21-22: *"And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death." And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."*

Luke 22:28-29: *"Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me[.]"*

John 12:25-26: *"He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*

John 16:1-2: *"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."*

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Romans 8:17: *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”*

Romans 8:36: *“As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

2 Corinthians 7:4: *“Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.”*

1 Thessalonians 3:4: *“For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.”*

2 Timothy 1:8: *“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.”*

2 Timothy 2:11-12: *“It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.”*

2 Timothy 3:12: *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”*

Hebrews 11:25: *“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season[.]”*

1 Peter 4:12-16: *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”*

1 Peter 5:9: *“Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”* (Context: **1 Peter 5:8:** *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour[.]”*)

Revelation 2:10: *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

Revelation 7:14: *“And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

But be ye of good cheer.

The expression “good cheer” includes “good courage” and “good comfort.” In the most uncomfortable of circumstances – imminent death of the cruelest sort, separation from those dear to your heart, loss of things temporal; yet good cheer, courage and comfort prevails. And, see these verses to help amplify this cheer:

John 14:1: *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”*

Acts 9:31: *“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”*

Acts 23:11: *“And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.”* **Acts 27:22 & 25:** *“And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship. ... Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.”*

2 Corinthians 1:3: *“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.”*

2 Corinthians 13:11: *“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”*

1 Thessalonians 3:7: *“Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith[.]”*

I have overcome the world.

Gill: “Believers, of all men, notwithstanding their tribulations, have reason to be of good cheer, since their sins are forgiven, the love of God is shed abroad in their hearts, their redemption draws nigh, and they have hopes of glory; and particularly, because as Christ here says, for their encouragement under all their tribulations in the world, "I have overcome the world": Satan, the god and prince of the world, with all his principalities and powers, which Christ has led captive, ransomed his people from, and delivers them from the power of; and all that is in the world, the lusts and sins of it, their damning power by the sacrifice of himself, and their governing power

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by his Spirit and grace; and the men of the world with all their rage and fury, whom he has trodden down in his anger, restrains by his power, and causes the remainder of their wrath to praise him; in all which conquests he makes his people share, and even makes them more than conquerors, through himself: so that they have nothing to fear from the world; nor any reason to be cast down by the tribulation they meet with in it.”

John 16:11: *“Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.”*

John 12:31: *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”*

1 Samuel 17:51-52: *“Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron. And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gaht, and unto Ekron.”*

Psalms 68:18: *“Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.”*

Romans 8:37: *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”*
The context is **Romans Chapter 8**, which upon reading, you will conclude: “Mind blown!” So, today’s gift is your very own copy of **Romans 8**, for you to carry with you at all times. Attached.

Galatians 1:4: *“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father[.]”*

Galatians 6:14: *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.”*

1 John 4:4: *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”*

1 John 5:4: *“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”*

Barnes: “The world is a vanquished enemy; Satan is a humbled foe; and all that believers have to do is to put their trust in the Captain of their salvation, putting on the whole armour of God, assured that the victory is theirs, and that the church shall yet shine forth fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners, #So 6:10.”

I love you. Amen.

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Romans Chapter 8: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he

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also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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 Christ Jesus our Lord.