

John 14 – Very great and precious promises. (11) Peace. (refs for Bible study 2/5/19).

*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. v27*

Is there anything the world wants more than peace? *'Do not let your heart be troubled'*, v1a and v27, a pair of 'bookends'. Peace is the promise that wraps up the whole bundle of *'very great and precious promises'* in John 14.

**Peace:** The peace that Jesus gives is –

**more than a greeting, a gift:** 'peace' was a common oriental greeting, eg 20v19, 3Jn.v14. But this is far more than wish, it's a gift, *'I leave', 'I give'*. What *you* leave doesn't always go to the right people, but what Jesus says happens.

**more than a negative, a positive:** our experience of peace is generally negative. It's the absence of strife. It's when the guns stop and the shouting ceases. But Jesus' peace is positive. Shalom, made whole, restored.

**more than a feeling, a fact:** Often we think of peace as a feeling. Yet it's not an emotional state, but objective fact.

- Jesus' peace doesn't depend on your feelings! You *have* peace even when sometimes you don't feel it.
- However, beware! It is possible to feel at peace when you ought to be alarmed! eg Jonah 1v5, Luke 17v27-30.

**My peace:** Jesus calls it *'my peace'*. As Prince of Peace, Is.9v6, he is the source of it. His work upon the cross the very next day would accomplish it, v28-31, Col.1v20. There is no peace until our alienation is dealt with, Is.57v20-21.

**Peace with God:** reconciled to God. Consequently **peace within:** the end of spiritual turmoil and unrest, Rom.5v1. From this comes **peace in all circumstances:** 2Ths.3v16. For it is a **peace with no human explanation:** Phil.4v7.

**Not as the world gives:** Jesus makes a strong contrast between his giving peace and the world giving it.

**not the way the world gives:** not deceitful, stingy, or grudging, but truthful, liberal, generous.

**not the kind the world gives:** not an illusion, false peace, or anaesthetic, Jer.6v13b-14, but real.

**Don't be troubled, don't be afraid!** two imperatives in v27: *'Don't go on being troubled! Don't go on being afraid!'* We are to passively give in, but do something about it. Christ gives his peace to those who trust him, so we should not be troubled or afraid. Maybe you say: 'But I can't do anything about my emotions'. Jesus doesn't say anything about emotions. *'Heart'* doesn't mean emotions. It means the centre of your being. Two practical things to do:

- **Promises:** use your mind, and feed on the promises found in this chapter. Meditate on them. Apply them.
- **Prayer:** and when we quote Phil.4v7, don't forget v6!