

Peace of Mind in a World of Turmoil

Fred R. Coulter—July 12, 2014

We need to understand that God is active in our lives. When it says that our prayers ascend to God (Rev. 4), it gives you a good inkling—the only place in the Bible and John, the one whom Jesus loved, was blessed to be able to see this in Rev. 4; to see the throne, to see the Father, to see Christ, and to prepare for Rev. 6.

Brethren, God has called us to the greatest thing that can happen in our lives. It's not going to be easy to get there, because we are going to live in the most dangerous society that has existed since the Flood. There are many things that we're going to have to see, we're going to have to endure, and we're going to have to be prepared.

You can see what's happening right now in the Middle East; that's preparing the way for the King of the South. That's also going to force Europe to take action. They're going to be forced to; they're not going to be able to sit back and say, 'Obama, you take care of it.' He's going to say, 'I'm going to go play golf.'

Remember this: ***You can never solve spiritual problems by political means!*** God has called us to solve the problems in the world with Christ. To be involved in the politics of this world is getting into Satan's system. Jesus said that He was *not of this world!* We are not of this world. It's not going to get better regardless of who gets in office, because it's the sins of the people! They're gross sins!

Remember all the effort that was put forth in WWII to get rid of Adolph Hitler and the Nazis in Europe? All the blood that was shed? That whole holocaust, everything that was involved, cost the lives of 50-million people. Yet, rather than thanking God for giving us the mission to do that, and giving God all the credit for it, we have now embraced every evil thing that the Nazis have stood for and we have given the license of murder to women, to abort now close to 60-million innocent lives! For every abortion there is an immigrant coming across the border as punishment.

You see, a woman's body is special, created by God, because when God formed Adam and Eve with His own hands, He put into them all of the genes and chromosomes for all the human race. So, when you read in the Bible someone praising God saying, 'Your hands have formed me in the womb,' that is an absolute true statement, because God made the genes that are causing it to be done. And the life that gives at conception, so that there will be a new human being, is a creation of God. All women become partners with God of the creation of new

human beings. It's a sacred trust that God gives to women. That trust is greater than what God has given to men.

That is why, when you read in the Bible there are so many things against women—in sexual things—because women are the last resort to stop sin! Men just do not have the control. That's why God made marriage, so anything that is done politically, anything that is done religiously, unless there is repentance on a vast scale, we are going to look like Syria! Don't think that is an exaggeration. It is not!

I watch the new and it's like I'm being put through a wringer. When I was a kid my mom got a brand new washer and it had these wringers. The clothes were pretty well wrung dry. I was looking at that and I got my hand in there, and finally it popped up!

That's exactly what it is if you get involved in the world. Sooner or later it's going to take you down.

Remember this: when it says Satan is cunning, that means he will come in a pleasant attitude, with a reasonable proposition to appeal to something that people want to do. He doesn't tell you where it's going to lead to. That comes later.

It's just like the addict, someone brought to those who became addicts. 'Try it, you'll like it. Man, this stuff is really good.' *No! No! No!* 'Look at me, I take it; do you see anything wrong with me? No, there's nothing wrong with me.' The one who is selling it hasn't reached the end of the journey, yet. The end of the journey is a very excruciating death!

So, don't believe all the good kind things that come along under the guise of 'benefits.' Because, for every benefit there are two hooks at the end of it, and they'll get you.

There is no turning back anything by political means! So, how do we survive? Let's see something very important. We survive because:

- we believe in God
- we love God
- He is first in everything that we do

As was brought out in the message by Michael Heiss: *The Meaning of Burnt Offerings*—the spiritual side of the burnt offering.

This is literally true this minute, while we are reading these words, Isaiah 3:8 "For Jerusalem is staggering and Judah has fallen because their tongue

and their doings *are* against the LORD...” First fulfillment. There’s a second fulfillment.

As much as they have many things right concerning the things in the Bible, because they have rejected Christ, they have had a very sorrowful history. As John brings out: ***He who has the Father has the Son and he who does not have the Son does not have the Father!***

God is yet going to deal with them. God is not going to abandon them. They will build a temple in Jerusalem at the time that God wants it to be built and not before. But in the meantime, they live in a society where they have rockets raining down on them, destroying their buildings. Tel Aviv used to be a safe place. No longer! That’s coming here! So how are we to behave?

Verse 9: “The look of their faces witnesses against them; and they declare their sin like Sodom. They do not hide *it!*.... [No, they jam it down our throats today, so to speak.] ...Woe to their soul! For they have rewarded evil to themselves.” Remember that in every case whether for good or for evil, ***it is not how you start, it is how you finish!***

We can take some hope right here, v 10: “Say to the righteous... [the ones of God] ...that *it shall be* well with him; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.” We need the protection of God (Psa. 91).

Verse 11: “Woe to the wicked! For the evil doing of his hand will be given to him.” Now then, it talks about ‘women ruling over them and children being their oppressors.’ All of that is true in a tremendous way.

How do you have Peace of Mind in a world full of turmoil? You look at what you see on the news and if that doesn’t affect you, and you hear all the bad news of everything, does it not give you an oppressive feeling? In addition to what the government’s doing to oppress us? *Yes!*

As Mike Heiss brought out in *The Meaning of Burnt Offerings*, the coming of Christ, His sacrifice and everything, was meticulously planned. Even some of those involved in it that had absolutely no knowledge of God, did exactly what God wanted them to do. The soldiers that crucified Him, what did they do? They looked up in a book of Psalms and said they would cast lots. ***No!*** They cast lots because even though they were the persons that they were, ***God made them do His will.*** Everything was meticulous, carried out to the ‘nth’ degree.

Romans 8:28: “And we know...” This is what we have to know in a *convicting* way, not to just to intellectually mouth the words or think the thoughts, but in a convicting way. We’re all going to go through some very difficult things in our lives

and some of them you’re going to say, ‘God, why?’ God is going to work it out.

“...that all things work together for good...” (v 28)—in the long run. Sometimes even in the short run when it looks really bad, but God can turn that to good.

“...for good to those who love God...” (v 28). That’s the whole purpose, *loving God!* That’s with:

- prayer
- study
- dedication

It’s like a burnt offering, wholly involved to God. What’s the problem with Laodiceans? *‘Ho hum, I’ll get around to it.’*

“...to those who are called according to *His* purpose” (v 28)—and we have. ***We have the greatest purpose in life!*** It’s not a ‘religion’ that we come to, to give obeisance to men. We are to have a relationship directly with God the Father and Jesus Christ. In hearing that music that Randy Vild put to Rev. 4, kind of keep that in your mind when you are praying, those words that are recorded. That’s where your prayers are going. Do you see that? Then you ask God:

- to lead you
- to guide you
- to help you

I don’t know about you, but I do that all day long. In this call to the purpose *He knows us!*

- Is not the Spirit of God in us? *Yes, it is!*
- Does He know us?
- Does He know our thoughts? *Yes, He does!*
- Can He inspire us to do things?

Sometimes does a thought come in your head and you don’t even know that God has done it, or led you to do something? Or cause you to remember something that you forgot? That’s how close God is with us. He’s *in us.* ***His dwelling place is with us!*** That’s what’s so important.

Verse 29: “Because those whom he did foreknow, He also predestinated us *to be* conformed to the image of His own Son, that He might be *the* firstborn among many brethren.”

God’s going to finish the work. None of us know how long we have yet to go. I never thought I’d be 80, but here I am beyond 80. But as I’ve mentioned before, when you get old, you get feeble. God knows that. He still loves you. Just because you can’t do what you used to do when you were 20-years-old or 30-years-old, that doesn’t mean that God doesn’t love you. *That’s just part of the process!* Death is a harvest! The grave is the

granary! God is storing it all in the granary. What a surprise that's going to be for the world. *What a surprise that is going to be!*

We need to have the peace of mind that comes from God. You need to pray for this, because this is a *spiritual quality* that comes from God.

A little thing to understand: *If you are by nature a worry-wart*—and some people are that way more than anything else; if there's nothing to worry about, they worry because there's nothing to worry about—*then you need to put forth some extra effort and ask God to help you with it.* Worry isn't going to help it. Here's what we need:

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you..." Remember, He was saying this just before He was to be led off, tried and crucified, that very night.

"...My peace I give to you..." (v 27). What are some other names of Jesus Christ? He's the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9). He's the King of Peace (Heb. 7). Are your mind and emotions in turmoil? *Don't worry about it and try and fix it mentally, go pray about it and lay it before God!* Leave it in His hands; **He is God!**

- Does God have all power? *Yes, He does!*
- Can God take care of it? *Yes, He can!*
- Can He change circumstances and you don't even know that He's changed circumstances? *Yes, He can!*

Remember, in Eph. 3, '*He has the power to do exceedingly abundantly of all we ask or think!*' That can give us a whole lot of peace of mind.

"...My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give *it* to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it fear" (v 27). That's something! Don't get worried. 'Yeah but, Lord, what am I going to eat? Lord, what am I going to drink?' In some cases we can be 'wise as serpents, harmless as doves' and have a few things set aside. That is true. But ultimately, *God is going to take care of it!*

I use this example, which will be on one of the Feast videos, which is this: When Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman armies in late 66_{AD.}, because what happened, the Romans took about 17 tons of gold from the temple. Tremendous amount. Took it from the temple. All the Zealots came in there, 'Let's get rid of the Romans. Let's get our gold back.' *Political thing!* You read the book of Jude, that tells you what was happening.

So, they surrounded Jerusalem and the Christians were still stuck in there. God did something; He caused the Romans to leave and go on down toward Caesarea and all the Zealots who were holding the hostages in Jerusalem left to chase

the Romans. The Christians left and went over to Pella.

If you picture that: Here you are in Jerusalem surrounded by armies. Those who are supposed to be your friends won't even let you out to try and escape. If you did escape, you'd be crucified. So God performed a miracle: they escaped, the Romans came back. In the destruction the last year, the Romans were very smart. God worked this out, too, because the Jews said, 'If we get as many Jews from the Diaspora here for Passover, then God will destroy the Romans and send the Messiah.' But they already rejected Him.

They ended up with two and a half million people in Jerusalem and the food supplies were gone very quickly because the Romans didn't let them out. So, He gives this to His followers before all of those events occurred.

Verse 28: "You have heard Me say to you that I am going away, and *that* I will come to you *again*. If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced that I said, 'I am going to the Father' because My Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it happens, so that when it comes to pass, you may believe. I will not speak with you much longer because the ruler of this world is coming; but he does not have a single thing in Me. Yet, *he comes* so that the world may know that I love the Father, and that I do exactly as the Father has commanded Me. Arise, let us go out!" (vs 28-31). Quite a thing!

John 16:32, Jesus said: "Listen, the time is coming, and has already come, that you shall be scattered each to his own, and you shall leave Me alone..." Of course, Peter denied. He said, 'No, Lord, I'll even fight for you.' Jesus said, 'You're going to deny Me before the cock crows twice.' Did that happen? *Yes, it did!*

"...and yet, I am not alone because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me... [Christ; you're not going to have peace of mind otherwise] ...you may have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation. But be courageous! I have overcome the world" (vs 32-33).

You see the kind of faith that we need to have, and so forth. And Jesus said this *knowing* everything that was going to happen to Him. *He laid down His life willingly* (John 10). You read John 17, it is the review of the whole plan of God.

How are we to be in the world today? *A lot of things going on, and most of us know the answers!* But you think the world would accept it? Try this on for size. I thought about this during Halloween: They decorated the bank with mock spider webs, skeletons, and all of this sort of thing. I thought to myself, I wonder would happen if someone would

come here and tear all these things down and say, 'This is an abomination. Get it out of here.'

One of the clerks came up and was talking to me and she said, 'Oh, look how nice this is. So-and-So did such a good job in decorating the bank.' Of course I couldn't hold back. I said, 'What if that offends me?' *It's for fun!* I just left it at that. *The world is not ready for God's way, yet!* We have to be ready by growing and developing and overcoming.

Romans 5:1: "...we have peace with God..." We're to have peace with each other. We have peace with God. That's why with God's Spirit and study and prayer you get peace of mind. We need to have peace of mind!

Here's how it starts, v 1: "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

What was our status before we repented and were baptized and came to God? *We were enemies with God!* Now we have peace with God. More than that, we have the Spirit of God—the mind of Christ is part of the Spirit of God—and the begetting from the Father to be a spiritual son or daughter of God. They dwell right here in our mind! Think how important that is. Think how important that is in relationship to giving us:

- purpose
- motivation
- diligence
- understanding
- wanting to do the things that God wants in our lives

Verse 2: "Through Whom we also have access by faith into this grace..." What is this grace? You heard the words and the music of Rev. 4 {see video of this sermon} Every single one of us have direct access to God the Father. *Every single one of us!*

- He is the One Who *does the perfecting*
- He is the One Who *gives peace of mind*

For the world, Satan is out there, 'Come, come, have fun; do this; do that; do the other thing. It won't hurt you. Try it, you'll like it.' That's the way Satan works. What has he done to all the young people? They've been educated to be dunces, most of them, wrapped up in music, electronic devices, sex and drugs. Not all, but he has created a population of slaves.

Let me read you something. This is by the Louvin Brothers, 1949, the lyrics to *If We Forget God*. I went to buy something and there was a song playing about death—we die, we die. I thought: they

are programming all the young people to look forward to death. *God is programming us for life, eternal life!*

If We Forget God by Louvin/Louvin; copyright: Sony/ATV Music Pub. LLC (<http://www.lyrics.com/if-we-forget-god-lyrics-the-louvin-brothers.html>)

If we forget God, Satan will rule
If we forget God, our nation is doomed.
The stories and pictures in most
magazines
Now feature new stylings unfit to be seen.
Their placed on the newsstand where
children can buy
When they go wrong, we wonder why.

If we forget God, His mercy will flee
And sin will cover the land and the sea.
If we forget God, Satan will rule.
If we forget God, the nation is doomed.
So many are claiming fame's golden hill
By singing of evil that gives this world a
thrill.
But I'll sing of Jesus and though they
won't hear
God will bless me for doing His will.

Very fitting. That's what we are here for.

"...into this grace in which we stand..." (v 2). You are in a special relationship with God. The whole world is under law to God. We are under grace so we can keep the laws in the spirit; have them written in our heart and in our mind, have the very thoughts of God come to us through His Word and through His Spirit. That's the whole purpose in life. This is why we can have peace of mind.

"...and we ourselves boast in the hope of the glory of God. And not only *this*, but we also boast in tribulations..." (vs 2-3). Why? *Because all things work together for good!*

"...realizing that tribulation brings forth endurance" (v 3). Have you all had to endure things that you never thought you would have to endure when you first came into the Church? I don't think there's a single one of us here that we're in the place where we imagined we may have been when we were first baptized. *No way!*

Verse 4: "And endurance *brings forth* character..." That's what God wants, because that's what's missing in the rulers of this world. They do not have Godly character.

"...and character *brings forth* hope. And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us" (vs 4-5). That's quite a thing, brethren!

This is why God does not want the brethren to come together and to be in a ‘religion’ of this world.

- we have greater purpose
- we have greater goals
- we have a personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ
- we are here all to be trained to rule with Christ, to save this world

We can have a vision of it that all of the Christians who lived and died, and they all have lived and died—haven’t they? *Yes!* Never had an opportunity to even contemplate.

The closest that any of the apostles got to knowing what was going to happen at the end-time was the Apostle John with the book of Revelation. That was so far down the road in its fulfillment that there were people even in the Church of God that thought he lost his mind. Some of them at first rejected to put it into the New Testament writings. But is it unfolding today exactly as described? *Yes, indeed!*

Let’s see what we are to be developing.

(go to the next track)

Here is what we need to do. As we do this we will develop the peace of mind, plus all of the other characteristics that God wants.

Galatians 5:22: “But the fruit of the Spirit...” Fruit does not come without labor. A bud is like an intention. It must be pollinated and it must grow. So you can’t have all these buds sprouting up over here—which are good intentions—without any fruit. That’s why there is time.

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love...” (v 22). Love first to God. Love to your neighbor. Love to the brethren. Love with each other, etc.

“...joy, peace... [peace of mind] ...long suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; **against such things there is no law**” (vs 22-23).

How do we get the fruit from the blossom to the ripe fruit? Verse 24: “But those who *are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.”

- that is through baptism
- that is through continual repentance
- that is through growing and overcoming

Verse 25: “If we live by *the* Spirit, we should also be walking by *the* Spirit.” That’s how all of these things happen in a world like we’re living today.

The whole first chapter of Colossians hinges around developing the character and fruit to be at peace with God. Notice that Paul starts out all his epistles very much like this:

Colossians 1:2: “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace and peace... [grace and peace come together] ...*be* to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” It doesn’t come from angels. It doesn’t come from other people. ***It comes from God the Father and Jesus Christ!*** That’s quite a thing. Think on that.

Verse 3: “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you continually since hearing of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love that *you have* toward all the saints; because of the hope that *is* laid up for you in heaven, which you heard before in the word of the Truth of the Gospel; which has come to you, even as *it also has* in all the world...” (vs 3-6). Not yet, but is coming! That’s another one of those perfects. If God says so, it will be. If He doesn’t tell you the time, don’t worry. It will eventually happen.

“...and is bringing forth fruit... [growing in grace and knowledge] ...just as *it is* among you, from the day that you heard and knew the grace of God in Truth” (vs 5-6).

Verse 9: “For this cause we also, from the day that we heard *of it*, do not cease to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

As we read this remember that this epistle was to be read to the Church of Laodiceans. This is what we need to be accomplishing here. We have more of the Word of God, more understanding of the Word of God. Because we do, we shouldn’t sit back and say, ‘Oh, we do know.’ We should be growing in the knowledge of God.

Verse 10: “That you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God.”

Notice what God gives us, that we can have this peace of mind. We don’t have to be worrywarts. We don’t have to be nervous and upset. We don’t have to be oppressed mentally because of what we see and hear going on.

Verse 11: “Being strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy.” So, this can be with us, while the world is out there in turmoil. Think of this. Remember it is ***the Father Who draws us!***

Verse 12: “Giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified...” You’ve heard the saying:

Are you qualified? *God is the One Who qualifies us!*

“...for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light” (v 12). Greatest inheritance could possibly be, starting with eternal life.

Verse 13: “Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness...” God reached right down and plucked us right out of the power of darkness of this world.

“...and has transferred *us* unto the kingdom of the Son of His love” (v 13)—which doesn’t mean we are in the Kingdom of God now, because flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. But we are under the rules, commandments, all the aspects of the Kingdom of God, fruits of the Spirit, growing in grace and knowledge, overcoming Satan the devil; and *God has rescued us* from it.

Verse 14: “In Whom we have redemption through His own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* firstborn of all creation” (vs 14-15).

Sidebar: Firstborn of all creation. Those who don’t believe that Jesus was manifested in the flesh, but was just naturally begotten by Joseph say, firstborn of all creation. So, they come up with two things:

1. He was born before the creation
2. He was born of the virgin Mary, but not of God

What is the correct answer, firstborn of all creation? *The firstborn from among the dead who have been created in Christ Jesus for eternal life!* That’s what that means when you put other Scriptures together with it.

Notice what we’re involved in, brethren. Notice how great Christ is. Think of this: Sometimes when you are in the worst circumstances, you can think the best. Paul was in prison, with chains, and he wrote Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians. Look how inspiring those are.

Verse 16: “Because by Him [Christ] were all things created, the things in heaven and the things on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or lordships, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him. And He is before all, and by Him all things subsist. And He [Christ] is the Head of the body, the Church; Who is the beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead...” (v 16-18). There it is right there. He was the Firstborn of Mary and the Firstborn from among the dead. So Jesus was born again. Which tells you, you are not born again until you are resurrected.

Verse 19: “For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell; and, having made peace...” (vs 19-20).

- with us
- future peace for the world
- future peace for all of those in the second resurrection

Once it is said, doesn’t matter how long it takes to get it done, it’s going to get done. There it is right there.

“...to reconcile all things to Himself... [He hasn’t done that, yet, but it’s coming] ...by Him, whether the things on the earth, or the things in heaven” (v 20). Then he talks about our calling and putting us in the condition that we are now.

Col. 2 is quite a chapter. We have several sermons on that if you want to go through it. {Note sermon series on *Colossians*}

Here is what we need to be doing. This is why when we come together in fellowship with each other, we need to be loving each other and loving God. You can’t love each other unless you love God first and I’ll tell you why. Because in the world, in a circle of friends that you would have, you would have none of those who are here to be your friends. Would you? *Probably not!*

Carnally we are put in a situation where there are some people that you wouldn’t like.

- Has that ever happened to you?
 - Do you get all mad and hoity-toity?
- or
- Do you go pray for them and ask God to help them?
 - Do you love them and make friends with them?

Maybe they are thinking the same thing in their minds about you. Remember this: *no one can read anybody else’s mind!*

Colossians 3:12: “Put on then, as *the* elect of God, Holy and beloved, deep inner affections, kindness, humility, meekness *and* long-suffering.” How do you start to grow in love toward someone, especially when it’s difficult? *I know, I am one of the most difficult!*

Verse 13: “Forbearing one another...” That means give the person space. Give them the benefit of doubt. Don’t be judging them. We are what we are, but we are going to be what Christ wants us to be. So, we all need to be growing in it.

“...and forgiving one another...” (v 13). Can’t have grudges. Note Matt. 18: How many times must I forgive my brother. Peter was generous, seven times, Lord? You come up to your brother and

you say, 'Okay, I've forgiven you seven times, now this is number eight, it's over.' *No!* Jesus said, 70 times 7; that's 490 times in a day. Nobody is that bad!

"...if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so also you *should forgive*" (v 13). That will take a load off your mind. Forgive!

Another thing, if there are things that have happened to you, even before you came into the Church and you were baptized and received the Holy Spirit of God, are there people who did things to you that you still remember? 'I'll never forgive.' What you need to do is go to God, *even if they are dead, you need to forgive them before God so you can have your mind cleansed of it.* Ever thought of it? That's how we need to handle that. Some of those are going to be hard, especially those who really, really did you in bad.

That doesn't mean you have to go hug them and kiss them. That means *you have to forgive them in your mind* and ask God to help them to change whether you ever see them again or not. That is your relationship between you and God, and you can't have anything between you and God to take away the peace that comes from God. That's how you have it.

Verse 14: "And above all these things *put on* love, which is *the* bond of perfection." It's interesting

- we are being perfected
- we are to become perfect
- love is the vehicle of perfection

You'd be surprised how much understanding you get when you do that.

Verse 15: "And let the **peace of God** rule in your hearts... [that's how to guide your thinking.] ...to which you were called into one body, and be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (vs 15-16).

Mark 9:50: "The salt *is* good, but if the salt becomes tasteless..." This means, as far as I'm able to understand, that *your behavior is pretentious and not sincere.* What do I mean by that? *You tell someone you love them, but you really don't!* You make nicey-nice with them, but you really don't care for them. Then you become hypocritical and the salt becomes tasteless. That's the best I can understand it.

"...how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another" (v

50). Be at peace with one another. That's what we need to have.

John 15:9: "As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; live in My love.... [that's what God wants] ...If you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love" (vs 9-10).

Because joy and peace are like brother and sister, v 11: "These things I have spoken to you, in order that My joy may dwell in you, and *that* your joy may be full."

Come over here to John 17:22: "And I have given them the glory that You gave *to* Me, in order that they may be one, in the same way *that* We are one: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one; and that the world may know that You did send Me, and **have loved them as You have loved Me**" (vs 22-23). That's how God loves you as He loved Christ. Think of that!

That can bring us more peace of mind than anything else, because the reason a lot of people get down and discouraged, and out and depressed is when they come to the realization that 'no one loves me; no one cares for me.' Remember: ***When all else fails you, the Father loves you as He loves Christ!***

- that will bring a lot of joy
- that will bring a lot of peace of mind

You won't have to worry about anything, just put it all in God's hands. And remember where we started: everything works together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

Verse 24: "Father, I desire that those whom You have given Me may also be with Me where I am, so that they may behold My glory, which You have given Me; because You did love Me before *the* foundation of *the* world. Righteous Father, the world has not known You; but I have known You, and these have known that You did send Me. And I have made known Your name to them, and will make *it* known; so that the love with which You have loved Me **may** be in them, and I in them" (vs 24-26). Remember the word *may*. That is conditional, showing that there is work to be done to accomplish that.

Here's what to keep in mind, Ephesians 4:1: "Therefore, I, the prisoner of *the* Lord..." Every right to have a pity-party for himself. 'O Lord, I'm here in these chains. Why did You do this to me?'

"...am exhorting you to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called With all humility and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (vs 1-3).

Stop and think for minute: Why have the Churches of God been fragmented so much? *Because they haven't learned the love of God, the way they need to learn the love of God!* Will God continue the fragmentation until we yield to God, love God? *I don't know*, but when you get right down, what is the heart and core of it all, right there:

Verse 4: “*There is one body and one Spirit, even as you were called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, Who is over all, and through all, and in you all. But grace was given to each one of us... [God gives it directly to each of us] ...according to the measure of the gift of Christ*” (vs 4-7). Then he talks about what it is that the Church is to be.

You'll hear me end a lot of sermons here, because this is worth it; this is where it is at; Ephesians 3:14: “*For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named*” (vs 14-15). Kept his mind on the goal, the Kingdom, the family of God, and all of that. Not in a self-righteous, super-sanctimonious way, but in a real deep spiritual way.

Verse 16: “*That He may grant you...*” You think God is going to answer this prayer of Paul in this writing? *Of course He is!* This is for us.

“...according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; *and* that being rooted and grounded in love, you may be able to comprehend with all the saints... [because God's plan is so great] ...what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (vs 16-19). That's really a Scripture to contemplate! That's what it means to be in the first resurrection.

Verse 20 will happen! In spite of what you see going on in the world, in spite of how bad it is out there, this is going to happen and you can have peace of mind through Christ:

Verse 20: “*Now, to Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us, To Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, even into the ages of eternity. Amen*” (vs 20-21).

That's how you can have peace of mind in a world of turmoil!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 3:8-11
- 2) Romans 8:28-29
- 3) John 14:27-31
- 4) John 16:32-33
- 5) Romans 5:1-5
- 6) Galatians 5:22-25
- 7) Colossians 1:2-6, 9-20
- 8) Colossians 3:12-16
- 9) Mark 9:50
- 10) John 15:9-11
- 11) John 17:22-26
- 12) Ephesians 4:1-7
- 13) Ephesians 3:14-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 91
- Revelation 4
- Isaiah 9
- Hebrews 7
- John 10
- Colossians 2
- Matthew 18

Also referenced:

- Sermon: *Meaning of Burnt Offerings* by Michael Heiss
- Sermon Series: *Epistle of Colossians* (note *Colossians 2 & More on Colossians 2*)
- Song Lyrics: *If We Forget God* by Louvin/Louvin (<http://www.lyrics.com/if-we-forget-god-lyrics-the-louvin-brothers.html>)

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