

## **The Wednesday Word, March 9, 2011: An Incomplete Gospel?**

At times, some professed believers have told me that they lack the peace of God. Have you ever felt like that? If this is your case, the smartest thing you can do is to examine which gospel you have embraced (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)! If you know nothing of the peace of God, you need to take time to see if you really have believed the gospel of grace or have merely understood something that looks like it (Galatians 1:6)!

Maybe the gospel you have received contains no peace. Maybe you've got a hold of some facts about the real gospel, but you have missed the joyful sound (Ps 89:15).

On the other hand, you may be saved, but you just don't know your gospel inheritance. In John 14 we are presented with the priceless last will and testament of our Lord. In verse 27, he says, "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you.*" This is excellent----- notice whose peace it is. He says it's "My" peace. It's the same peace that He enjoyed! What an incalculable inheritance. -- -----He left us His peace! What a gospel gift! Yet we so often do not enjoy what we have been given. We are rich, but we often don't realize it!

Remember the story of the man who sailed to America, but he had just enough money for the passage and none for the meals. After a few days his supply of sandwiches ran out and from then until the boat docked in New York he went hungry. As he was disembarking one of the crew said, "I noticed that, during the voyage, you would often walk past the restaurant while the rest of the passengers were eating. I even saw you looking in through the restaurant window. Why didn't you come in and eat?" The man embarrassedly replied, "I didn't have any money for meals." "No money for meals!" the shocked steward exclaimed, ----"the meals were free; they came with the price of the ticket."

So many Christians remind me of that poor unfortunate man. They are saved and holding out for heaven, but have not yet realized that an abundance of spiritual meals are included in the package.

Peace is just one of these 'meals'. The gospel brings us both the peace of God (Phil 4:7) and peace with God (Rom 5:1). It's His peace! But you say you enjoy neither. You say, "*If I could just feel something, if I could just feel the gospel, I would have peace!*"

There's the problem! In reality, if you think you need to feel something you suppose that the work of Christ is unfinished and incomplete! Peace with God, in your thinking, comes through Christ plus feelings! That lack of feeling, you think, is the little inch of distance that you have to get removed before the completeness of Christ's work is available for you! On this matter we could learn from Luther who one day was asked, "Do you feel that your sins are forgiven?" "No" he replied, "but I'm sure that they are. Get thee behind me Satan."

If you are depending on your feelings you have the wrong gospel! True faith believes that Christ has finished His work of salvation completely (Jn 19:30). True faith sees that salvation is not received by Christ plus feelings (Eph 3:12). True faith causes us to see pure grace and overflowing love coming from the cross (Jn 3:16). True faith embraces that all charges against us are dropped because of the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Eph 1:6-7). True faith does not need to feel these

truths before it believes them, but true faith believes and then quite often feels what it believes. When faith embraces that we already have peace with God we often then begin to enjoy the peace of God. Through faith we often receive our feelings, but we never receive our faith through feelings!

A professing Christian approached a preacher telling him that he was really worried about his salvation because he didn't feel anything. He had come to Christ as a repentant sinner and had called on the Lord to save him. But "nothing had happened", he said-----he felt nothing. The judicious preacher asked,"Was Noah safe in the Ark?" "Yes indeed," replied the man. "Well then, what saved him" asked the minister, "his feelings of being safe or the Ark itself?" Instantly the man realized the point the preacher was making, "I see it now," he said "it is Christ alone who saves."

The gospel is complete: no feelings are required to finish the work!

And that's the Gospel Truth