



# Church of Christ

October 8, 2000

204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

People say, *All I wish I could find peace of mind!* or *All I want is some peace.* People strain for and want peace but it seems to be so far from many. Why? Because peace cannot be built, earned or attained by men. Peace is the result of Christ. Peace is the result of the grace of God. *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33) Paul told the Ephesian brethren, *For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.* (Eph. 2:14) To the Colossians Paul wrote, *And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...* (Col. 3:15) Peace is found some 88 times in the New Testament.

Peace is *totality, wholeness, balance.* Peace is from God and *never* from man. It is given, not earned. It can only be received and never attained. It is the peace that comes from Christ, knowing that one is safe in what He has accomplished. People run from one thing to another looking for, trying to attain peace but never look where it is - in Christ Jesus! Christ introduced us to grace where we stand and peace is the result of that. (Rom. 5:1-2)

Peace is beyond the thoughts of man. Peace is not in man, in treaties, in the absence of war. Just look at many of the peace talks that take place. While peace is discussed, war is being planned. It is impossible to have peace without the God of peace. Until a person comes to Christ, there will be no peace in their life. *And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.* (Isa. 9:6)

Peace is a result of righteousness. God counting us righteous in Christ brings peace to our inner being. How often do we pray for peace, yet little for righteousness? Righteousness is being brought into a right relationship with God. The result of that is peace. To try to attain peace without a change in your life is impossible. Holiness and purity are the result of cleansing and being counted righteous. Peace enters the heart. A person practicing sin will never have peace within! *But the wicked are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud. >There is not peace,= says my God, >for the wicked.=* (Isa. 57:20-21)

The Father who loved us by sending His Son on our behalf, offers His peace to dwell within us. The fruit of the Spirit is peace. The peace of God, which surpasses all human understanding, is what guards the mind and heart of those in Christ. (Phil. 4:7) James talks about the *seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* (James 3:18) We sing about it: *When peace like a river attendeth my way... Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin: the blood of Jesus whispers peace within. There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God... A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God. Peace!* What a word. Do you find yourself looking for peace? Where are you looking? Think about it!!!

Brent