



Leader Corner

John 20:19-29

Main Idea: While doubt is not exactly the opposite of faith (unbelief is), doubt can interfere with our relationship with God and the sense of peace Christ has given us.

Main Practice: Our peace and assurance is in Christ alone.

Main Teaching: John 20:19-29

Refocus with Praise

With Praise: Read, sing or meditate on the hymn, *It is Well With My Soul*.

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul!

It is well with my soul!
It is well, it is well with my soul!

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

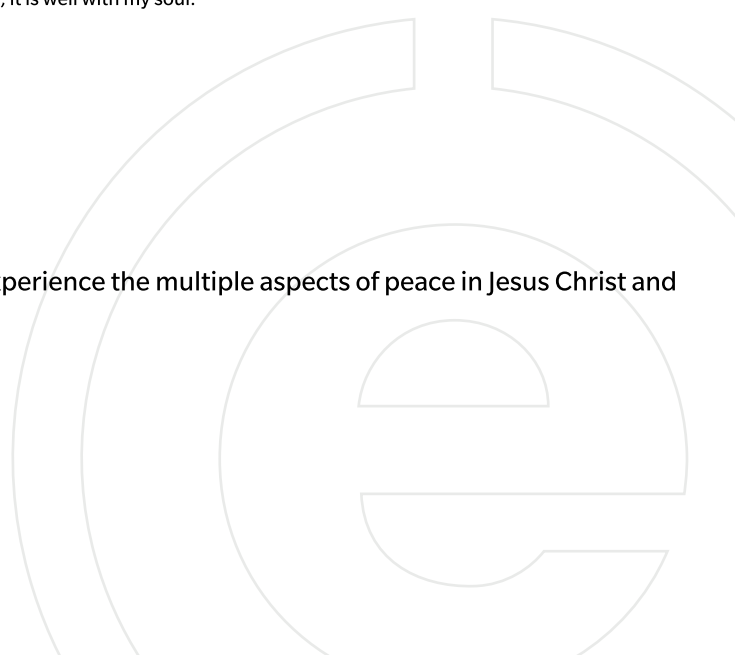
For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If dark hours about me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

with Prayer

With Prayer: Have someone pray for your group to understand and experience the multiple aspects of peace in Jesus Christ and for your discussion this evening.



1. Have a group member read aloud John 20:19-29.
2. What, out of this week's sermon impressed a new thought or understanding in your mind?
3. When Jesus says, "Peace be with you," what does this bring to your mind? Discuss, using the following scriptures: Isaiah 26:3, John 16:33, Romans 5:1, 14:17, 15:13, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 2:13-18.
4. Theologian R.C. Sproul, commenting on verse 21 in today's scripture, says that Jesus is telling his disciples to "carry on my mission." What does Jesus' mission look like? See Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15, Luke 19:10, 24:45-47, Acts 3:19.
5. In order to carry our Christ's mission which results in the forgiveness of sin through justification by faith in Jesus, the disciples receive the Holy Spirit. Why is this necessary to receive Christ's command? Helpful scriptures: John 14:25-26, 15:4-5, 15:26-27, 16:7-15.
6. What scripture helps us believe in Christ without seeing Him? Do you sympathize with Thomas, and what assurances do we have that Thomas did not have? Go to Romans 1:16-17, 10:17, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Ephesians 2:8, Hebrews 11: 1+6.

If/when you struggle with doubt, turn to God's written Word, and Christ, the living Word, for assurance. Paul tells us that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ. (Colossians 2:2-4)

For Further Focus

Thomas' statement in verse 25 holds out hope. His faith is weak but not gone completely. Recall and study others in the Bible who continued in faith in spite of their doubt. Helpful scriptures: Genesis 15:7-8, 1 Kings 19:1-3, Job 3:11, 14:14, Matthew 14:30-33, Luke 7:18-20.