



SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD

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Monday, August 29, 2022

Scripture: Colossians 3:15

TITLE: Where to Find Peace

We are suffering from anxiety and division. We experience anxiety from the ever-changing landscape and culture. One day the world is normal, and the next, it's upside down from a virus. One day we are getting along, and the next day the world is flooded with racial tension. One day the world is calm, and the next, it's in turmoil from wars, inflation, and so on. And these changes cause division among families, neighbors, coworkers, and even churches.

So what is the solution to all this anxiety and division? Paul will tell us in Colossians 3:15 (NLT).

“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.”

People who say Christianity is the same as other religions clearly have not read the Bible. People who think Christianity doesn't provide any practical difference have not fact-checked the claim.

Paul has been laying out the case for our new natures in Christ. Because of Christ's death on the cross, we go from being sin-marked condemned souls to righteous saints who have a new nature that can combat and overcome our sinful flesh.

Paul has said no matter what the change in behavior if it's not bathed in love, it is meaningless. And these love-soaked behaviors are not all that Christ does in and through us. He provides us with true peace.

What kind of peace? All-encompassing peace. Through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, we have permanent peace with God and counter-cultural peace with each other. Paul says God's peace should rule in your heart. Rule is a picture of a judge declaring a verdict. In other words, God's peace is available and secured for every believer. And we must allow it to be felt and utilized.

This peace should impact how we view and treat God. This peace should unify the true body of Christ each and every day. And if you want to experience this peace, Paul says, “and always be thankful.” In other words, focus on what you have in Christ and not what you do not have of this world. Develop and cling to an attitude of gratitude through Jesus Christ.

Peace and gratitude strengthen each other. That was Paul's challenge for the Colossian church, and it's our challenge today. So today, cultivate that attitude of gratitude. If you don't have peace, your eyes are on the problem. If you are suffering from anxiety, chances are you're

focusing on the have nots rather than the have in Christ. God has given us the Kingdom as His adopted children. His grace is sufficient. We are recipients of every heavenly gift. We have little reason to worry.

So today, create a list of your blessings from small to big. Share them in the comments below. Let's together create a list so long it will look like a worship service that will take days to read!

It's my prayer that God's peace will overwhelm us one blessing at a time.