

The Abiding Word

Back To The Bible & Let The Bible Speak

December 11, 2019

Reflections No. 4

WHEN MAKING PLANS

Matthew 6:33-34 (NASB)

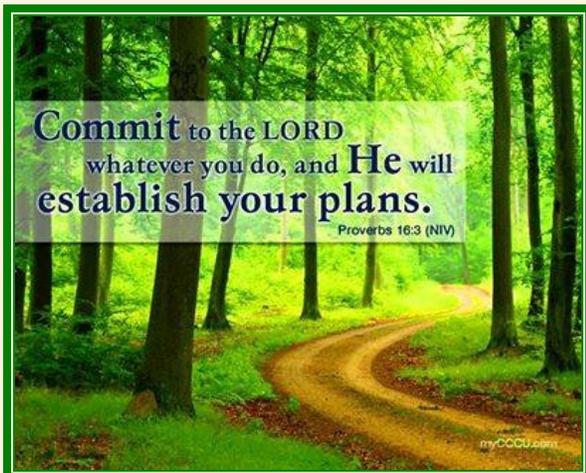
"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

James 4:13-15 (NASB)

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."



Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB)

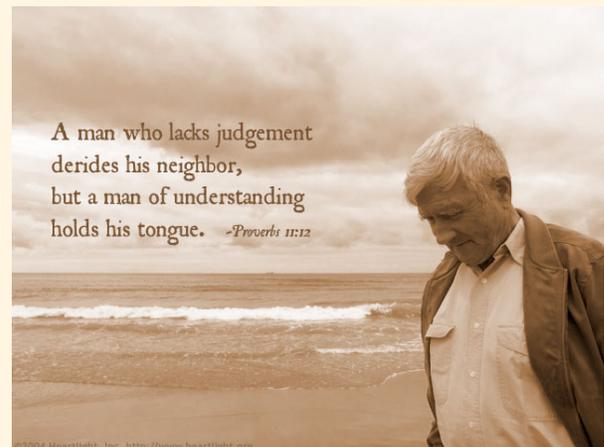
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PROVERB FOR THE DAY

One of the key methods I have learned over the years for dealing with the everyday challenges that living throws my way is to meditate on the Word of God each day as I walk with God.

I have found that reading the Proverb for the day in the morning and reflecting on that Proverb and seeing how I can put it to action in my life as I go through the day has become a great faith builder and strength when trials and conflicts come my way.

Each day has its own Proverb and in one month I have applied all 31 Proverbs ready to do it again the next month. It really works, try it.



ABOUT REFLECTIONS

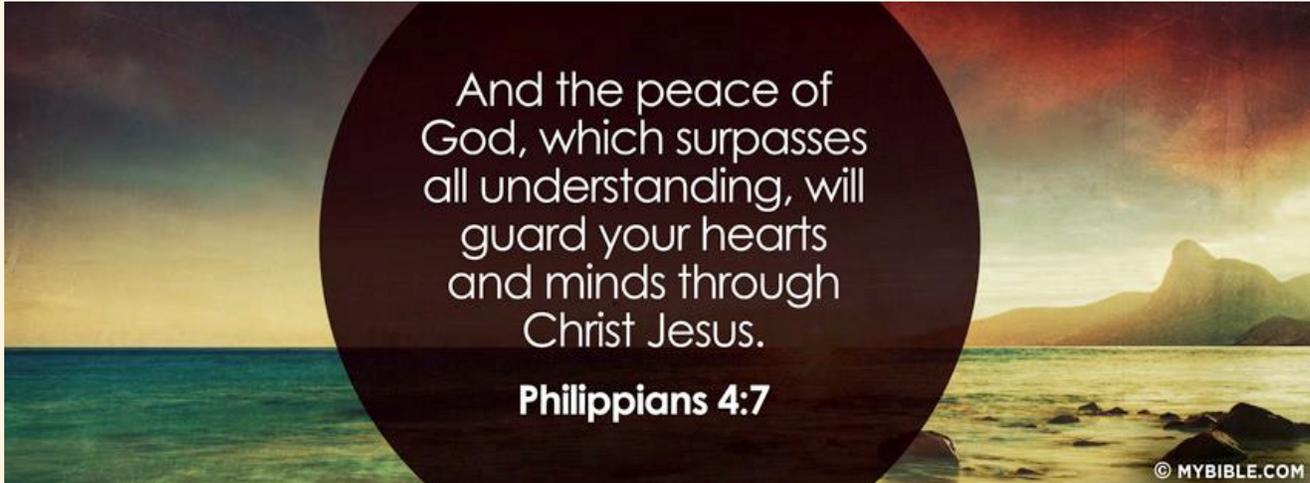
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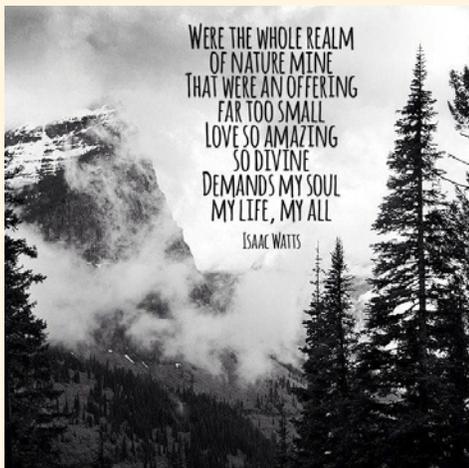
What is this peace of God that passes all understanding? Surely it is not peace with the militant, for hardly in the history of man has any slackening of war been evident with nations, with poverty, with sin.

The peace of God that passes all understanding is peace of the soul with God, and it is a quality and extent far above the comprehension of man. God's peace is able to quiet storms of fear, absolve conflict, and eradicate remorse. Through the righteousness Jesus affords, faithful men can have peace, peace with God and man.

Through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, He made peace with God for all men who believe in Him, confess His name before men, transform their lives to that of the spiritual, and seek forgiveness of their sins in accordance with Christ's commands. Do you have this peace? You can.

Peace has been defined as a condition of freedom from disturbance, whether outwardly, as of a nation from war or enemies, or inwardly, within the soul. In early times of man, to a nation harassed by foes, peace was a primary blessing from God. In New Testament times, Christ and his disciples taught peace as spiritual goals, as a gift from God made available to man through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The peace Jesus brings to man essentially is spiritual peace, peace of soul with God. Yet, there is a paradox here in the peace that is available to us through Jesus Christ. Luke 12:51-53 presents the thoughts of Christ when he records, "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division; for from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son and the son against the father, the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother..."



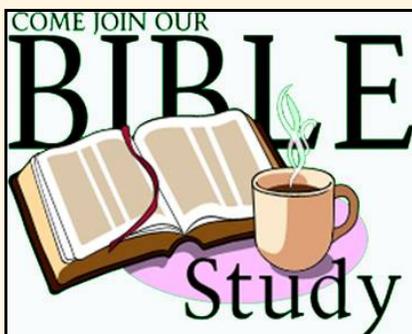
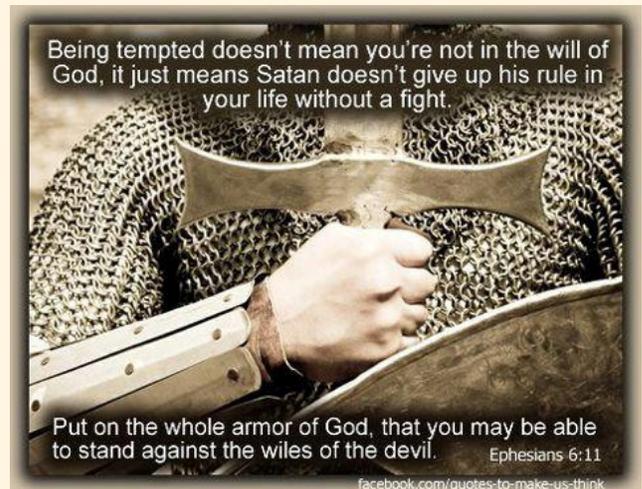
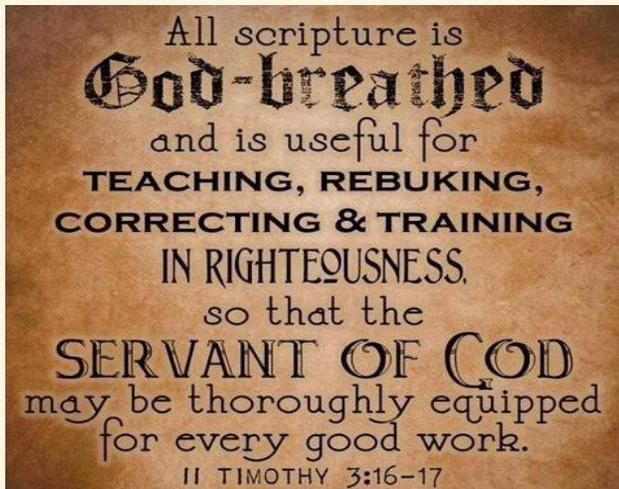
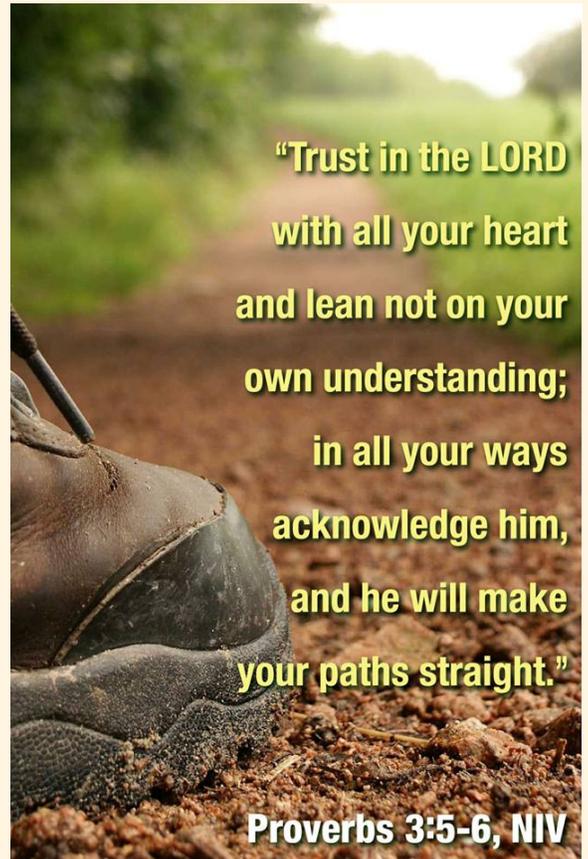
The peace of Jesus Christ often brings division, not that it is the purpose of our Lord to bring discord or division to man. But Jesus was wise and he realized that the effects of His coming would include discord and division when a part of the family would accept Him and have faith in Him while the other part would reject Him and oppose Him. But it is the hardness of man's heart, not the preaching of the gospel, that causes this hostility.

In our society, "bearing down" on the preaching of the Gospel of Christ brings discord, discontent, and disturbance. People want to be left alone to nurture their own thoughts. To society at large, the conforming to the mold of Christ is distasteful. As a result, many people mistake their belief in Jesus Christ as religion, when in reality it is little more than superstition. Their acceptance of Christ is based upon more tradition and conformity than upon a converted heart that is willing to submit to Christ.

Inner peace can never dwell within man so long as his will is not broken in favor of Christ, for always there will be conflict between what he knows Christ expects of him and what he desires for himself. He cannot be content to dwell "in the world" knowing Christ's Gospel, and he cannot be content to dwell "in the Spirit" because of his appetite to serve the fleshly man.

Christ speaks of coming with a sword, the Word of Truth, a weapon that will cut deeply into man's old habits, old ways of life, and will carve out for man a new life...if he will fight with the sword rather than against the sword.

Peace, perfect peace! It is man's greatest gift from God, but like all gifts from God, man must reach out and take it from Him. No gift of God is forced on man; neither is peace given to those who resist God.



Each Wednesday evening we host a Bible Study in our home. We are currently in the Book of Hebrews. Starting January 8, 2020 we will begin a series on the Letters of Paul starting with Galatians. If you are near and able, Joy and I invite you to join our study group.