

Perfect Peace

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[0:00] Isaiah 26 verses 3 and 4! Isaiah 26 verses 3 and 4 says, They will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee.

Trust ye in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. It's telling us there about perfect peace. Perfect peace. And the Lord promises that.

He promises peace. Perfect peace. And for those whose mind is stayed upon him. For those who put their trust in the Lord. There is a peace that is perfect.

It's a total surrender to his will. A trusting in him. That's talked about here. It's interesting that where it says perfect peace, in the Hebrew it says shalom, shalom.

Peace, peace, perfect peace. God extends his perfect peace to mankind. It's inward peace. It's perfect peace. It's outward peace.

[1:11] It's a peace that we can know. And I'll put it to you today that this kind of peace is not found in transcendental meditation. You know these people who sit and make funny noises and mantras.

Or people who chase after yoga or the worldly philosophies and wisdom so called. It's not in that kind of false kind of peace. That's not what the Bible is talking about here.

It's talking about something much more. Much, much more. Much more than the kind of peace that someone might try to find in a bottle, for example. Or in drugs. In some kind of mind altering drugs. Really, there's no real peace found there. There's no real peace found there. People who search for such things and try such things find that it's very empty. It's very empty.

It leaves them with an emptiness. It's not found in Eastern mysticism, this kind of perfect peace. It's not found in spiritualism, in horoscopes. Or hypnotism.

[2:11] Or through some advice of some new age guru. Or some kind of cult. It's not found in vain efforts and mind-numbing mantras.

Or in attempts to obtain some miracle power. Or altered states of consciousness. Even in hyped up Christian circles. It's not there. We're talking about perfect peace.

Perfect peace. It's not through some man-made, twisted self-health gospel. It's very evident nowadays that so many are being lulled into a false sense of peace.

A false sense of security. Where there's gospels being preached that don't really provide the real message. The life-changing message of salvation.

Now in the word of God in Isaiah 57. It says, But the wicked are like the troubled sea which cannot rest. Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

[3:07] There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. The Bible says there's no peace for those outside of Christ. There is no peace for any of us outside of that salvation that only he can give.

There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. They're just like a troubled sea. Who knows people? Their lives are just like a troubled sea. I've met some people lately.

And their lives are just like a troubled sea. They're a total mess. But then even so, some might seem like they've got all their act together. And are still a troubled sea.

Because deep down, there is not that peace that God can give. Only he can bring. Some false preachers will promote a gospel of false peace. As if it's by some kind of mantra or some kind of methodology of man that we can find the peace of God.

But no, it's found in obeying the scriptures. The some that give a message, they say, Peace, peace. But there is no peace. As those in Jeremiah 6, verse 14.

[4:16] And that's so very true today. There's so many churches, so many religions, so many variations of messages talking about eternal things.

And yet, if they're astray from the Bible, we know that we need to be very careful about such things. We know that there's some who promote another testament of Jesus Christ. And there's an outfit near where we live. And it's sad to see the car park was packed this afternoon. We see such things today. And yet, there is no peace, saith my God to the wicked. And the psalmist say, Peace, peace. But there is no peace. There's a gospel there. But it's not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It's another gospel. It's another message. So we need to be sure in these days of confusion, so many false things, that we get the real thing. The real thing. The real peace from God. In John 14, 27, the Lord Jesus speaks. And he says, Peace I leave with you.

[5:19] My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

My peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. My peace I give unto you. The peace that the Lord Jesus offers and extends is something much different than anything you could compare it with.

God's peace is not like some kind of transitory or illusory peace that's just a sham and a falsehood. It's real. It's everlasting. Not the kind of peace that false cults may offer.

This is peace that is perfect peace. It's real. It's reliable. It's constant. It fills the very soul of man. It goes for now through eternity.

It goes beyond all comprehension of man. And it guards our minds, our hearts. He promises it to us by his sure word. In his promises that he extends, this peace is offered.

[6:30] It says in the word of God in Psalm 29 verse 11, The Lord will give strength unto his people. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

He promises to bless us with peace. To bless his people. And deep down, I think really it's in everyone, to some extent, There's this searching.

There's this void. There's this lack of peace. There's this yearning for something that's real. Some kind of lasting peace. And yet most will not come on God's conditions to receive it.

They will not come on the terms of the gospel. In Psalm 34, 14, the psalmist David said, Seek peace and pursue it.

Seek peace and pursue it. Search for this peace. Search for this perfect peace. Paul says likewise in Romans 14, 19, he says, Let us follow after the things which make for peace.

[7:33] These are the messages of God's men. Of David, seek peace. Of Paul, follow after things which make for peace. How can we find this?

How can we search and find this? How can we find this peace of mind that's promised here? How can we cope with the troubles of daily living And achieve this certain, this sure peace in our hearts? For some, their lives, their minds are filled With so many things that would block God's peace, as it were. Unforgiveness. There's hurts there. There's memories. There's frustrating disappointments. There's times of turbulence that we can go through That we can lack that inner peace. There's times when relationships are tested. When it feels like we're going through life's storms.

But there is a way through. There is a way through. To find that peace. To find that wholeness. That healing. That he offers to us. To find that consistent peace.

[8:31] There's only one source for that. It's God. It's God. Peter preaches in Acts 10.36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel Preaching peace by Jesus Christ.

He is Lord of all. Peter preaches peace by Jesus Christ. He is Lord of all. The atoning blood speaks peace to the guilty.

It was only by the blood that the children of Israel could be sheltered from God's wrath. As they fled. As Egypt was punished. As judgment fell.

Before they fled Egypt. The blood had to be applied to the doors of the homes of the children of Israel. And it speaks to us of the peace that comes from the blood.

As we read in Colossians 1 verse 20. The blood of Jesus brings genuine peace. It says that having made peace through the blood of his cross. By him to reconcile all things unto himself.

[9:41] Colossians 1 verse 20. God makes peace through the blood of his cross. Friends there was. Some very real wood. Upon which a man's hands were laid.

And nailed. And bled. For man. He was the perfect substitute. The perfect lamb. The perfect God.

Man. God clothed in human skin. Coming down to intervene for the human race. Coming down to shed the blood of his cross.

That we might have peace. He was freely allowing his hands and feet to be pierced. His back to be shredded. To be cursed and spat upon.

To be reviled. And cursed. And to be made a curse. And that in the body. That was nailed there. Our sin.

[10:39] The Bible says that our sin. Was in that body. No sin of his own. But all the sin of us. Was there. On that cross. Nailed there.

So we can know peace. Through the blood. Of his cross. No other man could do it. No man could do it. Not even a. The most godly of men. No great prophet could do it.

It had to be God. In the form. Of his son. God the son. Becoming a man. God clothed. In flesh. God manifest. In the flesh.

And the perfect one. And he is called. The prince of peace. The prince of peace. He's the one you're searching for. Or should be. And he could keep us in peace.

It says in Isaiah 26. Verse 3 to 4. Then we'll keep him. In perfect peace. Whose mind. Is stayed. On thee. Because.

[11:37] He trusteth. In thee. Now not only is he. The prince. Of peace. Who shed his blood. On the cross. That we can know. The peace. Of God. But we can.

Keep. In that peace. We can keep. In peace. In perfect peace. As our mind. Is stayed on him. The word tells us.

To stay. Our mind. To set. Our mind. Make an intelligent decision. You know. The bible says. Come now. And let us reason. Together. It's an intelligent thing.

It's a rational thing. It's a reasonable thing. To be convinced. To be persuaded. To understand. As much as we can't comprehend. Really the.

The smallest iota. Of what God's grace means. That we can. Be persuaded. To believe. We can. Reason with God. Though our sins. Be.

[12:33] Vile. As scarlet. As glaring. And blatant. As. As. Ugly. As they are. They can be made.

Completely. Clean. And completely. Erased. From God's mind. And from us. That will keep him. In perfect peace. Whose mind.

Is stayed on thee. It says stay your mind. It says elsewhere. Set. Your mind. Set. Your mind. Set. Your mind. On things above. Not on things on the earth. This earth is passing.

This world. Is not our home. We're passing through. Set your mind. On things above. Think of. This. Really brief time. Of our existence.

The Bible says. Our life is just. Like a vapor. It's just like a bit of steam. Out of your kettle. It's a vapor. It's just going to. Blow away. With the wind. And it's going to be gone.

[13:28] Our lives are just like a leaf that fades. And just gets blown away with the wind. That's how our lives are. Let's make it count. By putting our trust in Christ.

To find that consistent peace. We need to come to the one source. The Lord God. Set your mind. Set your mind. As you would set. As it were. A radio dial.

Set your mind. Place it there. Place your mind. On such things. That really count. That really matter. Everlasting things. Romans 8 verse 6. It says. For to be spiritually minded.

Is life. And peace. But to be carnally minded. To have your mind. On the flesh. And the passing things. Of this life. Is dead. But to be spiritually minded.

Is life. And peace. You can have a mind change. As it were. To have a mind that's shifted. And placed on spiritual things. On things above.

[14:25] You can set your mind. You can set your hope in God. And find that peace. That wholeness. That only he can give. And this peace. The Bible says. It's perfect peace.

It's perfect peace. It's supreme. It's unsurpassed. It's perfect. It's great. In Psalm 119. Verse 165. It says.

Great peace. Have they. Which love. Thy law. And nothing. Shall offend them. There's great peace. If you come. To take the word of God.

Take it as rare. Take it. As real. As relevant. For you personally. And make it live. In your heart. Great peace. If they. Which love.

God's word. And nothing. Shall offend them. This is the peace. That our Lord grants hearts. And in Colossians 3. It says. That this peace. Can come. And dwell. In the very inner core.

[15:20] Of our being. It says. And let. The peace of God. Rule. In your hearts. To the which also. You are called. In one body. And be ye thankful. Let the peace of God.

Rule. In your hearts. Let it. Be president. And resident. And uppermost. And foremost. Let it be ruling. Let it be reigning. In your heart. It can.

It can. God says it can. God comforts. The downcast. There's so many scriptures. Read through the Psalms. If you're ever feeling. Like you're downcast. God is there.

In those times. As the Psalmist cried out. So often. In times of trouble. God travels with us. Through the storm. His shelters. Is in the midst of the storm.

And he stills the storm. At the end of the day. God's peace. It's total. It's encompassing. All the dimensions. Of our mind. Our will. Our emotions. Our body.

[16:15] As well as our relationships. Our well being. Our whole way of life. That's the kind of peace you can know. It's not a peace that's found. At the end of some peace pipe. Or some marijuana joint.

Or some. Drink. From a bar. It's found. In the living God. He's created you. And made you. To find that peace. That only he can bring. To make.

Life. Make sense. And to be complete. And much much more. To take your guilt. And shame. And to take. That weight. And take. That horrendous.

Vileness. Of our sin. Away. Which we're only. Deserving. Of his judgment for. Friends. You can know peace. To know. That wrath. Will not strike you. To know.

That storm cloud. Of his judgment. Will not fall upon you. Because you're. Found. In Christ's shelter. You're found. In his. Safe keeping. And God grants us peace.

[17:11] He grants us peace. As we allow him. To fill us. And control. Our lives. In Isaiah 9. Verse 6 to 7. Of the promise. Coming. Of Christ. It says.

Unto us. A child is born. Unto us. A son. Is given. And the government. Shall be. Upon his shoulder. And his name. Shall be called. Wonderful.

Counselor. The mighty God. The everlasting. Father. The prince. Of peace. Of the increase. Of his. Government. And peace. There shall be.

No end. You know. Governments. Come and go. And we know. Some are of. Various shades of. Quality. And lack of quality. But we know. This government. This government.

Is going to be. Upon his shoulder. And his government. Is going to be. Forever. And it's going to be. A government. Of peace. Not through. Any making of man. In times past.

[18:06] There was a man. Who waved a piece of paper. And said. Peace. In our time. He negotiated peace. With Adolf Hitler. The Prime Minister. Of England. Of his day.

Peace. In our time. I've got it in writing. Adolf signed his name to it. You know. It wasn't worth the paper. It was written on. But there is peace. And it's the government. That he will bring.

The government. That he can. And does bring. To lives under his government. To lives where. The peace of God. Rules. In our hearts. One of his names. Is the Prince of Peace.

Another. Of his names is. The God. Of peace. It's his character. It's his character. He imparts it. And he can give that. No matter what. Strikes you.

No matter what. You're going to. I know. Ian loves to pray. For our persecuted. Brothers and sisters. In other lands. You know. To become a Christian. In some nations. It means shedding your life's blood.

[19:02] It means crossing the line. From safety. And peace. And ease. To a life. Of torture. And testing. Of your family. Getting slaughtered.

Of all manner. Of. Trial. And trouble. We don't know. How easy we have it. In this land. How easy it is.

To stand up. For Christ. Travel back. To 1555. A man called. Nicholas Ridley. He faced being burnt.

At the stake. Because of his witness. For Christ. On the night. Of Ridley's execution. The night before. His brother came. To Ridley. And said. Nicholas. I'd like to come. And stay with you. Overnight. In the prison cell. To be of assistance. And comfort. He knew that his brother. Was going to be burnt. At the stake. Wrote to the stake. With. With the.

[19:58] Bushes underneath. And lit. Just because he believed. In Jesus Christ. Just because he believed. In the saving grace. Of God. And it was out. Of step.

With the religious establishment. Of the day. And Nicholas. Declined the offer. And replied. That he meant to go to bed. And sleep. As quietly. As ever he did.

In his life. Because he knew. The peace of God. He knew the peace of God. He could rest. In the strength. Of those everlasting arms. He knew where he was going. He knew who he belonged to. And he knew that those everlasting arms. Would meet his need. And so can we. So can we. We may not face. Going to the stake. And being burnt for our faith tomorrow.

But we can know that same peace. That Nicholas Ridley. Knew. A lack of peace. Can spring. From pride. From rejection. Of going God's way. From selfishness.

[20:52] From a lack of faith. Friends. I urge you. Each one here tonight. Make peace with God. Make peace with God. Not on your terms. But upon his terms.

While they're extended. God's peace is something we can consciously. Know. And it can affect the practical life. That we live.

And. It takes that priority. For our thinking to change. It's about our thinking. Our thought patterns. You know it says in Philippians 4. Verse 6 to 9.

It says be careful. In other words. Don't be full of care. For nothing. But in everything. By prayer and supplication. With thanksgiving. Let your request be made known.

Unto God. It's saying there. Paul writes. Don't worry about anything. But pray about everything. And verse 7. And the peace of God.

[21:48] Which passeth. All understanding. Shall keep. Your hearts and minds. Through Christ Jesus. Then it goes on to say. Finally brethren. Whatsoever things are true.

Whatsoever things are honest. Whatsoever things are just. Whatsoever things are pure.

Whatsoever things are lovely. Whatsoever things are of good report.

If there be any virtue. If there be any praise. Think on these things. When we become a Christian.

We think differently. Our thought patterns change. There's something about what possesses us.

And obsesses us. And drives us. And motivates us. It's not the things of this earth. Not those things of flesh. And self. And sin. But those things that are pleasing to him.

And the peace of God shall keep. Your hearts and minds. Through Christ Jesus. The word tells us. What we are to think upon. Set your mind on things above. Stay your mind.

[22:45] Upon our Lord. David did that. He set his mind on God. It says in 1 Chronicles 29. Verse 3. He didn't look at the size of the giant.

In 1 Samuel 17. 44. Through. But he looked at how big his God was. David. Faced the greatest challenge. Of the world of that time.

And the whole nation depended. Upon what happened. He didn't look at the size of the giant. He had faith. In a much bigger Lord. The God. Of the universe. Who stood with him.

And fought the battle for him. So it's about taking attention. If we think about thinking. How can my thinking. Be stayed.

On God. How can I stay my mind. Upon that which is healthy. And good for me. Instead of setting my mind. On things. That will not be good for me. There's lots of scriptures.

[23:40] In Matthew 6. 25. 27. 28. 34. It talks about thought. Taking thought. And it's talking about anxious thought.

Of careful thought. Of anxiety. For example. Our Lord says in verse 25. Of Matthew 6. Take no thought. For your life. What to eat. What you shall drink.

Not yet for your body. What you shall put on. Don't take. Don't place your thoughts. And your thinking. Upon such things. Upon. What you shall eat.

What you shall drink. Now the practical things of life. Of course we all need such things. But. The Lord says. Don't. Place your. Priority of thinking. Upon such things.

In verse 27. It says. Which of you. By taking thought. Can add one cubit. Unto his stature. You know. As much as we might try. To get a bit taller. You know. We can't make ourselves any taller.

[24:35] We're the height God wants us to be. Aren't we? You know. Some of us here. Might like to be a bit taller. Some of you. Might want to be a bit shorter. But we can't. By any thought. By any anxious thought.

We can't change the height. That we are. It goes on in verse 28. Of Matthew 6. Why take your thought. For Raymond. For clothing. Why are you distracted? Why are you worried about such things?

Consider the lilies of the field. How they grow. They toil not. Neither do they spin. But we know that the flowers of the field are cared for by God. The fowls of the air.

The sparrows. Everything is cared for by God ultimately. And the Lord says don't take thought. In other words anxious thought about such things. He says in verse 34.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow. For the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. So if you've got things in your future.

[25:31] There's things you're worried about. I know there's some guys doing some exams. And there's homework to be done. There's concerns about deadlines. There's such things. We all have various pressures of work.

Of living. The Lord says take no thought. Don't place anxious thought on such things. On tomorrow. On your height.

On your clothing. On your eating and drinking. On your everyday. Take no thought of such things. God will provide. Seek first the kingdom of God.

And his righteousness. Don't be anxious about the everyday. Choose rather to find God's will. And do it. It's the same word used in Philippians 4 verse 6.

Of thought. Of being careful. Of full of care. Rather place your thoughts on things above. The same word is used in Luke 10. 41.

[26:28] Where the Lord Jesus comes. And Martha and Mary are there. And Martha is running around. Like a mad thing. Trying to get the place all speak and span.

As it were. Or prepare the meals and so on. All the practical things. That had to be done. But Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet. And the Lord Jesus says to Martha. Martha, Martha.

They aren't careful. Or in other words full of care. They aren't careful. And troubled about many things. But he says that Mary has chosen the best part. We can be like Martha.

And get all caught up in. And all the distractions. And all the things that have to be done. And miss what God wants for us. Peace.

Perfect peace. And all the things that are ready. An old hymn writer, Horatio Spafford, funny name, but he was a businessman in Chicago and his wife and three daughters were sent on a journey ahead to Europe.

[27:32] He had some things to attend to, he was going to catch up later. And en route there was a terrible storm and there was a shipwreck during which the three daughters drowned.

And Mrs Spafford made it to safety. She was able to find safety despite the shipwreck. And she wired back to her husband and said, all of our daughters have been lost, only I have been saved. The man got on the next ship and as they came near to the place where his daughters drowned, the skipper of the ship pointed to the place where the other ship had gone down. And it was there on the deck of the ship that Horatio wrote these stirring words.

When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot that has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Now there's a peace that goes beyond the circumstances. There's a peace we can know despite the very hardship of the present time, if that be the case.

[28:41] We can recognise God is working through the situation. We can find his peace. We can submit and resign to his will. And we can know that real peace, that calmness, that consistent peace, that contentment, that confidence that is in him.

Our peace is not in the absence of danger or of trouble, but in the presence of God. Amen. In his presence. You know, I look back as a young father to helping to teach my children to swim.

And you have them in the water, this little one, so helpless. And you hold your arms underneath as they, you know, as you gently try to help them learn to swim on their own steam.

What a picture of the phrase in the word of God. Underneath are the everlasting arms. Whatever you're going through, saints. If you're a Christian here today, the Bible says that underneath you are the everlasting arms of God.

Everlasting. Everlasting. You can trust in him. His presence is with you and his peace is with us. It says in 2 Thessalonians 3 verse 16, Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means.

[30:02] The Lord being with you all. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the Lord of peace. And he will give you peace always by all means.

We have his peace because we know the Lord of peace. He gives us his confidence that he is with us always. And our trust has to be in him.

We can find peace in anxious times. God is still in charge. No matter what. No matter what. Receive the Lord of peace by faith.

Realize the peace of the Lord by faith. It says in Romans 5 verse 1, Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

You can know. Justified. Made just. It's as if you're standing before the judge. And you know you're as guilty as sin. And he says, Not guilty.

[31:08] Someone else has taken his guilt. You know, I've stood in a court. I've sold this before. I was in the jury, thankfully. But you know, it's a hard thing even being in the jury, as it were.

But it's an awesome thing. You know, I've seen court houses. I've seen places of formal hearings. And one day we will stand before a far, far greater judge.

It says that all of us will. All of us will. We'll give account of ourselves to him. And friends, you can know that you can be justified. Declared just.

Declared just. By faith. By faith. And you can have not only the justification, the declaration that you are made just because of his taking of your guilt.

But you can have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. And Romans 15, 13, it says, Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that ye may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost.

[32:17] The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. There's joy and peace in believing. Friends, opportunity is extended.

The God of peace extends an invitation. And we can receive peace that passes all understanding. And we can know what it means when it says, Thou wilt keep him.

Keep him. Thou wilt keep him. Secured. Assured. Confidently kept. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace.

Perfect. Perfect peace. Not some cheap false substitute. Perfect peace. Whose mind is stayed on thee. Because he trusteth in thee.

Trust in him. Just like a little child. As helpless as they can be. Can trust that underneath are the arms of the father or mother. We can trust in the everlasting arms.

[33:24] The everlasting arms. And one day, as I say, when judgment time comes, there'll be two judgments. One judgment for the believers will be for their works.

The other judgment, the verdict will always be guilty. Because those people never trusted in Christ. It's up to each one to consider such things.

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that we can pray. And we thank you, Lord, that your word is awesome. It's absolute.

It's living. It's alive. It's powerful. It's sharp sometimes, Lord. It's full of promises. It's full of warnings. It's full of judgments.

And it's full of blessings. Lord, we pray for each soul here gathered. Lord, that each one might come to find that peace. That perfect peace. That peace that transcends any human kind of sense of peace.

[34:24] A peace that goes deep to the very soul of man. A peace that extends into eternity. Lord, we thank you that it's been made possible through the blood of your cross.

For those who will avail of it, Lord, we thank you for that wonderful work. That it was at that cross, on that rough piece of wood, Lord, that our sin was nailed, as it were.

If we can but believe it, we can find that forgiveness made possible through the blood of your cross. We can find that peace that can be made possible through the blood of your cross.

Help each one, Lord, to realize that. Help each believer to walk in the truth of that peace. To know that as our mind is stayed on thee, as we rest on your promises, as we set our mind on things above, as we stay our mind on your word, as we love your word, as we make it live in our lives, Lord, that we can know peace that's perfect, that's absolute, and we can live in those promises of your word.

Lord, bless each one. Help each one, if there's any here with troubles going on, that they might find the promises of scripture can be at the heart, a comfort today. In Jesus' name, amen.

[35 : 44] Amen .