



GOOD PEACE



Sunday Message Banning Liebscher



Teaching Text:



(NIV) Romans 15:33

The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

(NIV) Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

recap.

This week Banning Liebscher continues the series on peace, building on the message preached two weeks ago; “Why Are You So Afraid?” We are all faced with a choice to either live in the storm or above it. If you choose to live in the storm, you will be faced with the stark reality that your inheritance is diminished, your authority is neutralized and your witness is compro-

mised. Choosing to live above the storm, results in your inheritance embraced, your authority manifested and your witness being powerful.

One of the mandates and pursuits of this house is to see people receive the fullness of what Jesus paid for. We are going to be a community that contends for the fullness of God in your life. As a church body, we do not want to see people settle, but rather step into their inheritance and the completeness of what Christ paid for on the Cross.

In Romans 15, Paul is wrapping up his letter to the Romans and concludes with “the God of peace be with you all”. When

Paul refers to God as the God of peace, he's making an intentional statement. He refers to God in this way throughout his letters. In Rome they would have known many, many gods. Greek mythology had merged with their culture and they worshiped many gods. Those gods had names that described them and what they ruled over. Some of these gods were: Minerva (goddess of craft and wisdom), Mercury (god of trade), Bacchus (god of grapes and wine production), Mars (the god of war), who was the father of Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome.

It is to these Christians, in this context, that Paul writes "the God of peace be with you all". You know all the other gods, but let me tell you Who the one, true God is; He is the God of peace. Paul was making a radical statement to the Christians in his day. He was letting them know that in God, and God alone, you find peace. God is the one Who: gives peace, restores peace and Who sustains peace. It doesn't matter where you look, you will only find peace in God. As modern believers we may not be looking to the god of war or wine but we certainly look to other things for peace. Today, we live in a world where we could easily submit to the gods of entertainment, money or sex. None of these things could ever provide the peace that is found in Christ alone.

Jesus came into this world to reveal the heart of the Father. He did this by how He lived and by what He taught. He exposed lies about how we view God and about how we think God views us. Some of the most common lies that we believe are: God is distant and uninterested, He won't protect me, so I have to protect myself; I can't trust Him with my needs because He doesn't care, I am alone, God helps those who help themselves and God is not in control.

Lies disconnect us from truth and lead to a life of confusion, chaos, fear, worry, discouragement. When we believe a lie, we run from God, when we believe the truth, we run towards God. We see this portrayed in the story of the Prodigal Son. The further we get away from God, the messier and more chaotic our lives become.

In direct contrast, partnering with Truth connects us to peace. When we know the truth it leads us to freedom from: confusion, chaos, fear, worry, discouragement. Drawing close to the Father keeps us anchored in our peace. He is constantly inviting us to draw near to Him and to live in His truth.



Discussion Guide

Emotional Health Check In:

Take a few minutes to do an emotional health check in with your Life on Life group, creating space for each person to answer the question below:

- Describe your week with three adjectives.

If the need arises, spend a few minutes praying for one another, asking God to meet needs and help each person carry what feels heavy right now.

ENGAGE

Are there areas in your life where you know you are choosing to live in the storm? What are those areas?

Do you feel like you live as though you are receiving the fullness of what Jesus paid for? Why or why not?

Are there other gods in your life (entertainment, money, sex) and how do you think these have impacted your peace?

ENCOUNTER

Spend a few minutes in stillness and quiet (you may want to play soaking music) in your group and ask the Holy Spirit the following question:

Holy Spirit, have I partnered with a lie about Who God is (He is distant, uncaring, abandons me, is not in control, etc..). Please expose the lie now. How did that lie get in and what is the truth to replace that lie?

If time permits, allow those who want to, to share what God spoke to them during the encounter time.

EQUIP

Spend some time journaling this week. Write down the main areas of your life (relationships, finances, spiritual health, emotional health) and examine each one. Take note of whether or not there is complete peace in that specific area. If anxiety, doubt or fear arises in a particular area, write it down and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the lie that is attached to that area. Once He reveals the lie, repent for partnering with the lie and then ask Him to replace it with His truth.

REVIVAL IS COMING. REVIVAL IS HERE.

