

Blessing Our Blessings-Giver

Select Passages - Colossians – Communion – August 1, 2010

Colossians 1:20

- **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross – Something _____ To Be _____**
I Corinthians 11:24-26

- **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross – Makes Even A Christian _____ Special**
Colossians 1:2

Romans 5:1

- **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: _____ Us From Certain _____**
Colossians 1:13

- **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: A Peace Only _____ Can Provide**
Colossians 1:15-17

John 10:18

- **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: Making Possible A _____ Meeting With God Someday**
Colossians 1:22

Hebrews 10:31

II Corinthians 5:10

Jude 1: 24

- **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: Applied Only To _____** Colossians 1:23

My NEXT STEP for this Week:

1. Solicit a report from a VBS worker.
 2. Share with anyone how God has blessed you.
 3. Ask an unbeliever, “How can I pray for you?”
- Then send me a brief email on the response you get.
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Blessing Our Blessings-Giver

Select Passages - Colossians – Communion Message – August 1, 2010

Intro: This morning we have another refreshing opportunity to fix our eyes on Jesus and bless the One who blessed us with His work on the cross.

Having scheduled communion for this morning ... but coming to the passage in Colossians 3:18 – “*wives be submissive to your husbands*” ... I thought it best to examine this passage later and review several verses from Colossians that tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ and His work on the cross.

The text I would like to use as a springboard is Colossians 1:20

Colossians 1:20

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having *made peace through the blood of His cross* ...

It took the shedding of Christ’s blood to provide us what we could not provide ourselves! And this act on Christ’s behalf is NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN! It is to be REFLECTED ON CONSTANTLY!

➤ **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross – Something NEVER To Be FORGOTTEN**

I Corinthians 11:24-26

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

11:25 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

So I take you back to the phrase in Colossians 1:20 ...

Colossians 1:20

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having *made peace through the blood of His cross* ...

Transition: And here’s a refreshing perspective ...

➤ **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross – Making Even A Christian GREETING Special**

Colossians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father.**

Compare:

It wouldn't be correct to greet unbelievers ... those who have no sense of the grace of God ... nor peace with God with the statement "*Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*" It is meaningless to them. But to us ... it is special!

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Transition: But not let's look at some truths that should constantly move us to praise and gratitude. Consider another wonderful truth concerning this peace ...

➤ **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: RESCUING Us From Certain DOOM**

Colossians 1:13

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

- ✓ *He has **rescued us** from the state of heathenish darkness and wickedness.*
- ✓ *He hath **saved us** from the dominion of sin, which is darkness (1 Jn. 1:6),*
- ✓ *He has **snatched us** from the dominion of Satan, who is the prince of darkness (Eph. 6:12),*
- ✓ *He's removed us from the damnation of hell, which is utter darkness (adapted from Matthew Henry's commentary)*

Colossians 1:20

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, **having made peace through the blood of His cross ...**

*How can we not be people who treasure Christ above all else?
How can we not be people who live to please Him in all respects?
How can we not be people filled with praise and thankfulness for the blood of His cross?!*

Transition: And the One who provides this peace stands alone as God

➤ **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: A Peace Only GOD Can Provide**

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God ...

- His *deity* is affirmed here!

Colossians 1:16a

... by Him all things were created ...

- His deity as *Creator* is affirmed here!

Colossians 1:16b

“... all things have been created ... *for Him.*”

- His *preeminence* is affirmed here!
- Christ’s primary purpose in creating this planet is *not for us!* It is for Him!

Colossians 1:17

“... and in Him all things hold together”

- His *power* as God is seen here!
- Every moment of every day He holds every atom in place ... every planet in its orbit and every galaxy in its precise location

Colossians 1:22

yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death ...

Before Jesus died ... He was perfectly clear!

John 10:18

“No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

Four great statements ... four incredible truths!

“*No one has taken it away from Me*”

- Jesus was not a **VICTIM**

“*I lay it down on My own initiative*”

- Jesus **CHOSE** death

My friends

If you have authority lay your life down ... you have authority to keep yourself from having to give up your life too!

“*I have authority to lay it down*”

- Jesus **ALLOWED** others to kill Him
- Only by Christ’s authority and permission could His enemies kill Him

“*I have authority to take it up again*”

- Jesus had power even **AFTER** His death

Jesus is saying

- ✓ I give up My life of My own **INITIATIVE**
- ✓ I give up My life by My own **AUTHORITY**
- ✓ I give up My life by My own **POWER**

✓ I continue to have power **AFTER I DIE** ...

“... *I have authority to take it up again* ...”

It becomes abundantly clear ...

Jesus was in complete control of His **DESTINY**

In other words ... just my thoughts ...

Jesus didn't save us *accidentally*

He didn't save us *coincidentally*

He didn't save us *involuntarily* ...

He saved us *deliberately* ... a plan designed by the Holy Trinity in eternity past

Transition: I love to read about things promised in the future ...

➤ **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: Making Possible A FEARLESS Meeting With God Someday**

Colossians 1:22

yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach

Every person will stand before God some day.

- ✓ There will be a great white throne judgment **for unbelievers**
- ✓ And a bema seat or judgment seat of Christ **for believers** ...
- Unbelievers will stand before Him **TERRIFIED!** And rightfully so!

Hebrews 10:31

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The reason for this terror? Peace has not been established between a sinner and God. Unbelief! Sin! Rebellion! Rejection of Christ ... all will make this face to face encounter more frightening than we can even imagine!

When believers meet their God ... it will be different!

- Believers will stand before God **ACCEPTABLY** - fearlessly

II Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ ...

Transition: The difference between the judgment of unbelievers and the judgment of believers? For believers ... Jesus may be at our side when this occurs ... so that He might do what Colossians 1:22 says ...

Colossians 1:22

yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach

Praise God for how you'll be standing before Him ...

Standing before Him **HOLY**

Standing before Him **BLAMELESS**

Standing before him **BEYOND REPROACH**

We see the same experience described with an emotion ...

Jude 1: 24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

Not only will there NOT be terror for the believer ... an extreme opposite will be experienced. There **WILL BE JOY** ... immediate JOY!

Because ... to be absent from the body means to be present with the Lord.

And when you are in the presence of the Lord at death ... you will be in His presence with immediate joy!

And it is all because Jesus Christ made peace for us by the blood of the cross!

O praise His name!

Transition: But let me shift with the Apostle Paul to what is quite important in preparation for communion.

➤ **Peace Through the Blood of the Cross: Applied Only To SOME**

Colossians 1:23

if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel ...

EXAMINE YOURSELF!

Are you continuing in the faith?

Are you firmly established and steadfast?

Are you still fixed on the hope of the gospel?

Is Christ your Lord!

Do you have peace with God?

Are you being governed by this peace by a life of obedience?

As we prepare our hearts for communion ... remember ... Jesus Christ has ...

Colossians 1:20

"... made peace through the blood of His cross ..."

You will have a chance to more personally apply these truths as you take the bread and the juice in just a moment.

SELF EXAMINATION:

I Corinthians 11:27-31

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:28 But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

1 Corinthians 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged

PERSONAL TIME - SELF-EXAMINATION**Before the elements are passed**

- The **BREAD** represents the body of Christ
- The **JUICE** represents His blood shed on that cross

These cause us to remember His suffering on our behalf

These cause us to remember that His death was a substitute for us!

The shedding of blood is the only way to provide forgiveness of sins

- Invitation to believers ... (non members)
- Take both elements when the trays are passed
- Hold them ... for we will take each one together

ELDER TO PRAY ...