

The Everlasting Covenant of Peace: 5

A Covenant of Soundness (of Mind)

Isaiah 54.10

We have been seeing in this series that when God cut His Covenant of Peace it was an everlasting covenant. Our text verse tells us:

“For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed..”

His covenant of peace shall never be removed. It is an everlasting covenant (Ezekiel 37.26) – that means it lasts forever, it is still in force today. We can still appropriate all that this covenant encompasses by faith.

We began a few weeks ago looking at shalom in the light of its' meaning the whole well-being and welfare of man. So far we have seen that *shalom* includes our safety & protection, and last week, harmony in regards to our relationships (i) with God and (ii) towards others. But today we shall direct our thoughts towards soundness, another one of the variant meanings of shalom.

By soundness I mean, soundness of heart and mind, clarity of thought

1 Corinthians 14.33

“For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”

- ⤴ God is not a God of confusion but of peace (*shalom*).
- ⤴ The Greek word (*akatastasia* #181*) means “instability, disorder and confusion”
- ⤴ God does not bring instability, He is not the author of it. God is the author of peace – soundness of mind and soundness of heart.
- ⤴ He is not the author of disorder, He is not the author of confusion - He is our peace, our *shalom*, our soundness.

John 14.27

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

- ⤴ Jesus speaks these words to His disciples just hours before He is arrested
- ⤴ The disciples are about to go through their greatest trial – something they are not expecting is going to shake the foundation of their faith.
- ⤴ Jesus bequeaths the best thing to them for their hour of need – peace, *shalom*, soundness of heart and mind.
- ⤴ The world cannot offer this peace, it cannot give this soundness – what the world offers is shallow and falls far short. The world's peace is very transient and unstable (the very opposite of *shalom*)
- ⤴ “Let not your heart be troubled – let it not be afraid” - let not your heart be agitated, troubled or confused by fear. Receive the soundness of heart and mind that comes through *shalom*.

Mark 5.1-15

- ⤴ In this chapter we read of a man whose life consisted of instability, confusion and disorder.
- ⤴ He spent his life in the tombs; every time he was bound by chains he would break the shackles; He would cut himself with knives
- ⤴ His heart was in a state of confusion and disorder
- ⤴ Just one word from Jesus and the peace of God floods his heart and mind and set him free

“Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid” (v15)

The peace of God brought soundness of mind to the demon possessed man.

Philippians 4.6-7

Over the last few weeks we have finished with these verses.

In his teaching, the Apostle Paul writes that our needs and cares (those things that cause our hearts to be troubled) should be made known to the Lord in prayer.

Attached to this is a great promise –

“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”

surpasses – to be higher, superior, better; to transcend

my paraphrase:

“the peace (shalom) of God which is higher and superior than all of our understanding (the mind and intellect which can be troubled by our needs) – that peace will guard and garrison your hearts and minds – that peace will give you soundness.”

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