

## **Pastor's Weekly Devotional- March 17, 2016**

### **“Peace That Exceeds Understanding”**

**Peace.** Whisper the word to yourself and you could almost feel your heart relax. When you are at peace, you feel an inner confidence that things are not running wild – regardless of the circumstances. Your mind is at rest. Your heart does not flutter with anxiety. Your focus is clear.

But far too often, Peace is like that elusive butterfly. Even Christians chase after it and find it just out of reach. Perhaps, the rarest of all virtues, real peace comes only when you decide to take God at His word.

So, if God promises peace, let's discover how to find it on our most stressful days! Resting on the edge of Isaiah's prophecies sits the elusive butterfly:

*“The steadfast of mind, You will keep in perfect peace,  
Because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3)*

Let's break down that promise and discover the secret of peace. “Steadfast” means “to lean for support.” “Of mind” means “to frame or to form.” Together, the phrase means God will give complete peace to you if your “frame of mind leans on and is supported.”

On what you should be leaning? On God! When you trust Him, you “throw yourself down” just as you do when playing the “trust game.” When you trust God, you refuse all other crutches and lean your entire weight on the Lord Who gives stable support.

Can God hold you up? In two ways: He will “keep” you, meaning He will “Guard or watch over you,” and He does this with “perfect peace,” (Shalom). Literally, God will guard you with Shalom – an unending security, an uninterrupted rest, and a complete calmness.

So, in whatever circumstances you find yourself today, lean on God! Do you feel panicked, unsure of what to do? Trust Him with it. Are you worried about a situation outside your control? Give it to God. He promises you Shalom if you lean your full weight against Him, not yourself: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understandings. Acknowledge Him...and He will direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6). The result? Peace that surpasses all human understanding.

**Remember: This Sunday (Palm Sunday) at 7:00 p.m. is our Easter Musical Play. Invite a friend. Better yet – Bring a friend!!**

Blessings!  
Pastor Sewdin