

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 25, 2017**  
**“He Is...The Hebrew Names of God ~ Jehovah -Shalom”**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22**

**3 THINGS THAT STEAL OUR PEACE OF MIND**

- Lack of \_\_\_\_\_.
- When people won't \_\_\_\_\_.
- When problems are \_\_\_\_\_.

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

God wants us to have peace—in fact, God promises us peace because it's one of our most basic \_\_\_\_\_. And God will be \_\_\_\_\_ to keep His promises

***Jehovah-Shalom*** =

“So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it Jehovah Shalom—the Lord is Peace.” (Judges 6:24)

Shalom =

When we pray to Jehovah Shalom, we're praying to the \_\_\_\_\_ of all peace—it's no wonder His Son is called the Prince of Peace—and it's no wonder that peace was a central \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' ministry.

“I am leaving you with a gift: peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't fragile like the peace the world gives. So do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ to His promise: “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19-20)

Peace isn't something we work for or \_\_\_\_\_—it's a free \_\_\_\_\_  
**Why don't I have it? Why is it so fleeting?**

Peace has nothing to do with \_\_\_\_\_ living. If we have to wait until all our problems are \_\_\_\_\_ to be at peace, we're never going to get there.

“I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

The trials and challenges of life are \_\_\_\_\_; however, peace of mind doesn't come from conflict-free living—it's the result of three important decisions that we need to make.

**3 DECISIONS THAT LEAD TO INNER PEACE**

**Decision #1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **what cannot be changed.**

\_\_\_\_\_ about what we can't change won't give us peace. Becoming \_\_\_\_\_ or bitter about what we can't change won't give us peace. Feeling \_\_\_\_\_ about things that can't be changed won't give us peace. And having \_\_\_\_\_ over things that can't be changed won't give us peace.

“I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have and with everything that happens. I know how to live when I am poor, and I know how to live when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of being happy at any time in everything. I can do all things through Christ because He gives me strength.” (Phil 4:11-13)

**2 LESSONS ABOUT ACCEPTANCE**

• **It is a** \_\_\_\_\_ **experience.**

• **We need** \_\_\_\_\_ **to do it.**

One of the things that keeps us from knowing God's peace is our desire to \_\_\_\_\_ and demand for an \_\_\_\_\_. We rarely find the answers to these questions because there's so much in life \_\_\_\_\_ our understanding.

**3 THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND**

• **Even though God loves us, He doesn't owe us an** \_\_\_\_\_.  
“But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me list?’ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and for common use?” (Romans 9:20-21)

God the \_\_\_\_\_, we are the \_\_\_\_\_.

• **Even if God did explain, we probably wouldn't** \_\_\_\_\_.  
“‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heaven are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.’” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

God's mind is so much greater than ours—we can't \_\_\_\_\_ all the ways of God.

- **Explanations rarely bring** \_\_\_\_\_.

What brings us comfort in these moments is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in our life—not His explanations, but His care and \_\_\_\_\_.

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work.” (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

### The Serenity Prayer

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
the courage to change the things I can,  
and the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time,  
enjoying one moment at a time,  
accepting hardship as the pathway to peace,  
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is; not as I would have it.  
Trusting that You, God, will make all things right if I surrender to your will.  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life  
and supremely happy with you forever in the next. Amen.”

**Decision #2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **in God's loving** \_\_\_\_\_.

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” (Isaiah 26:3)

God gives peace to those who \_\_\_\_\_ in Him because they \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.

### 4 REASONS WHY WE HAVE PROBLEMS

- \_\_\_\_\_ **blew it.**

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone...” (Romans 5:12)

Adam and Eve gave into \_\_\_\_\_, allowing sin to come into the world, and we're all paying the \_\_\_\_\_.

- **We have an** \_\_\_\_\_, **Satan.**

\_\_\_\_\_ is a reality and the enemy wants to \_\_\_\_\_ us up.

“Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

- **We** \_\_\_\_\_ **it.**

Many of the problems in my life are the \_\_\_\_\_ of my own

bad \_\_\_\_\_.

“Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always reap what you sow.” (Galatians 6:7)

- \_\_\_\_\_ **happens!** Sometimes the pain in our life is \_\_\_\_\_ fault.

“This happened so the glory of God may be displayed in his life.” (John 9:2)

Sometimes problems come into our life for no understandable reason; however, we need to see them as \_\_\_\_\_ for God's glory to be displayed through us.

### 3 RESPONSES TO UNCONTROLLABLE SITUATIONS

- Try \_\_\_\_\_, grit our teeth, and push on. And the more out of control life gets, the more \_\_\_\_\_ we get.
- Wave the white flag and \_\_\_\_\_. We give up and fall into hopelessness and \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ the loving care of God.

“Give all your worries and cares to God because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

“Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God your needs and don't forget to thank Him for His answers. If you do this, you will experience God's wonderful peace which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

**Decision #3:** \_\_\_\_\_ **to God's loving control.**

We have a decision to make—who is going to be \_\_\_\_\_ of my life—me or God? Often we make the \_\_\_\_\_ choice, and we take the driver's seat.

“So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.” (Romans 8:6)

God uses the things that come into our lives to shape our \_\_\_\_\_; force us to our \_\_\_\_\_; and to remind us that we're totally \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.

“Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.” (James 4:10)

The evidence of a surrendered life is always \_\_\_\_\_.

**“The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end,’ so says the Lord who loves you.” (Isaiah 54:10)**