Devotion #251

**The Lord’s Peace**

**John 14:27 (NASB)** *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”*

My wife and I were talking this morning about why we remember certain things and don’t remember other things. We talked about how certain things stick in our long-term memory because of the effect that situation/ conversation had on us. For instance, I remember many things from my childhood. I have a tendency to remember hymns we sang in our church - one of which came to mind this morning titled “Jesus Is Coming Soon” This hymn was written in 1942 by Robert Emmett Winsett and made popular by the Oak Ridge Boys. Don’t hold it against me if you are not a fan of southern gospel music. The title should give any true believer in Jesus a great joy that should never end. Listen to the lyrics, *“Troublesome times are here, filling men's hearts with fear. Freedom we all hold dear now is at stake. Humbling your hearts to God saves from the chastening rod. Seek the way pilgrims trod. Christians awake. Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon, Many will meet their doom. Trumpets will sound. All of the dead shall rise. Righteous meet in the skies. Going where no one dies, heavenward bound.”* Then the next stanza, *“Troubles will soon be o'er, happy forevermore, when we meet on that shore, free from all care. Rising up in the sky, telling this world goodbye, homeward we then shall fly, glory to share.”*

I don’t know for sure, but I would suspect Mr. Winsett wrote this song thinking about the current state of the world. As you know from history, the second World War was raging in 1942. Many families had sacrificed so much for our country and people around the world, literally giving their lives. Some still remember those days or the after-effects of them. It was a very dark time for our nation and world for sure. I’m speculating about Mr. Winsett’s thinking, but what greater thing to do than remind the Christians that in the midst of very troubling times Jesus will be coming soon.

Even in the midst of chaos it the world, the Lord is not only in control of all things, but he has the desire and ability to give to all his children, those who have surrendered their lives to him, peace. But listen to this, not just any peace, his peace!!! If you notice the words of the Lord in John’s gospel, you hear him clearly say that he would leave the disciples his peace. Does that not make you want to shout hallelujah? Can you imagine the peace the Lord himself has? Think about it. Our Lord has the peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7) He has eternal peace. He has peace that is never troubled by anything or anyone. That’s right. No one or no situation can ever rob Jesus of his peace. And he gave that to the disciples of his day and to all who are his disciples now. Staggering!

I think we could say along with Mr.Winsett that as much as the world was in great distress in his day, our world is just as much in distress today. Our situation is not over a world war, but over a war between good and evil. I understand that this battle has been going on since Satan rebelled in heaven and was cast out by God, but the war you and I face is over logic and what is right for humanity. We fight the war of values - such as the value of the life of an unborn child or the value of life for a senior adult who many say are a nuisance to society. We fight the battle of what gender a person is and what equality is and you know the rest. But no matter what, the Lord has promised those who belong to Him that we would be given his peace. And that peace beings the moment we are born again. When the Holy Spirit comes in to us, he provides all we need to live this life in peace with God, peace with one another, and peace with our circumstances.

Oh beloved, think about it. If you belong to Jesus, there is nothing that can rob you of the peace he gives you. It is you and I who must remember that we have not just anyone’s peace given to us, we have Jesus’s peace. PRAISE HIS NAME!