

Round Top Church Christian Fellowship

Sermon Series in 1 Peter

2 Peter 3:1-18

Be Found by Him in

peace, spotless and blameless

May 21st, 2017 A.D.

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

241 Peace O.T. (JPS)

118 Peace N.T. (NAS) 359 Total in NAS

Peace: freedom from civil disorder," from Anglo-French *pes*, Old French *pais* "peace, reconciliation, silence, permission" (11c., Modern French *paix*), from Latin *pacem* (nominative *pax*) "compact, agreement, treaty of peace, tranquility, absence of war" (source of Provençal *patz*, Spanish *paz*, Italian *pace*), from PIE root [*pag-](#) "to fasten" (which is the source also of Latin *pacisci* "to covenant or agree;" see [pact](#)), on the notion of "a binding together" by treaty or agreement.

We will not allow the Resurrection to go unobserved.

It has been five weeks, and now we go into our sixth week since the Resurrection. Remember that Acts 1:3 tells us that Jesus was with the disciples for over forty days, and we can assume that Jesus ascended to Heaven about this time. Remember, Jesus directed His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they received power from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) through baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). Acts is the book of the Holy Spirit 'acting out' in the lives of the apostles. It is noted that the apostles received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed His Spirit into them in John 20:22. This is the one-time event in history where the Resurrected God, as Jesus in the flesh, infused His being in a person. This is to demonstrate the reality of being indwelt by God's Spirit. God said that He can operate this way in Ezekiel

36:27. Therefore, we shall not be confused. Receiving the Holy Spirit is a first step in the process of acting for Jesus. Jesus was physically present with the apostles. The apostles had surrendered to the Lord's conviction while the Lord was physically present. This is the same as surrendering to the conviction of the Holy Spirit now. Jesus is the Holy Spirit (Heb. 9:14). His physical departure called for Him to be spiritually present in the hearts of the apostles. Once the apostles received Jesus'/God's Spirit inside of them, they could then grow spiritually and receive spiritual power, gifts and fruits. Waiting in Jerusalem for the Pentecost (50 days after Passover) event was what Jesus asked the apostles to do. Again, they did not get saved at Pentecost (Acts 1); they received additional power, gifts and fruit. (Pentecost this year is June 4th).

Pentecost - Easton's Bible Dictionary

i.e., "fiftieth", found only in the New Testament ([Acts 2:1](#) ; [20:16](#) ; [1 Corinthians 16:8](#)). The festival so named is first spoken of in [Exodus 23:16](#) as "the feast of harvest," and again in [Exodus 34:22](#) as "the day of the first fruits" ([Numbers 28:26](#)). From the sixteenth of the month of Nisan (the second day of the Passover), seven complete weeks, i.e., forty-nine days, were to be reckoned, and this feast was held on the fiftieth day. The manner in which it was to be kept is described in [Leviticus 23:15-19](#) ; [Numbers 28:27-29](#) . Besides the sacrifices prescribed for the occasion, everyone was to bring to the Lord his "tribute of a free-will offering" ([Deuteronomy 16:9-11](#)). The purpose of this feast was to commemorate the completion of the grain harvest. Its distinguishing feature was the offering of "two leavened loaves" made from the new corn of the completed harvest, which, with two lambs, were waved before the Lord as a thank offering.

The day of Pentecost is noted in the Christian Church as the day in which the Spirit descended upon the apostles with additional power, and in which, under Peter's preaching, so many thousands were converted in Jerusalem ([Acts 2](#)).

Now, to Peter.

Who is this Peter who is so forthright with his letter?

- He was one of the first disciples. [Matthew 4:18](#)
- He witnessed the miracles of Jesus. [Matthew 4:23-25](#)
- He walked on water until he lost focus in his faith. [Matthew 14:26-32](#)
- He promised to never leave or deny Jesus. [Matthew 26:35](#)
- He turned violent and cut-off a man's ear attempting to prevent Jesus' arrest. [John 18:10](#)
- He denied knowing Jesus three times. [Luke 22:60](#)
- He was restored by Jesus during the Resurrection. [John 20:14-17](#)
- He witnessed the empty tomb. [John 20:6](#)
- He was one of the first recorded in Acts
to preach in Jesus' name after the Ascension. [Acts 2:14ff](#)
- He made several missionary journeys recorded in the book of Acts.
- He healed people in Jesus' name. [Acts 3:1-12](#)
- He was threatened, arrested, jailed and miraculously released
for speaking in the name of Jesus. [Acts 5, 12](#)
- People lined up as Peter walked by so that his shadow would cover them, and
they would be healed. [Acts 5:15](#)
- He struggled with his religious legal Jewish upbringing. [Galatians 2:11-21](#)
- Church writers ([Clement of Rome letter to Corinth](#)) and tradition tells us that he
was crucified.
- He wrote two books in the New Testament, 1st and 2nd Peter.

The Text of 2 Peter 3

There is a reference here that this is Peter's second letter. Since there is no 3rd Peter, we can assume that this is the last letter. However, we really do not know. Peter, like Paul (13 known letters), could have written numerous letters, and we only have these two. What we do know is that Peter was martyred between 64 and 68 A.D., and, after that time, he was obviously not able to write. Therefore, what we read here is believed to be his last words

that have been circulated. Most likely, Peter had a constant awareness that his life could end because of his witness to the Gospel by preaching in Jesus' name. We should receive these letters, penned about 64 A.D., as the words of a dying man. His last will and testimony. So, he is writing what the Lord sees as the most important eyewitness account of Jesus' teaching. These letters serve as a life-extension to the recipients. They live hard lives surrounded by opponents who find the Gospel offensive to their culture and belief system.

Do you ever notice that the Gospel(s) stir-up a lot of people? I mean, the Gospel by its very nature is convicting but to a goal of positive reckoning. God does not desire to stir us ~~up~~ for the sake of amusement. God desires to stir us ~~up~~ in order for our soul, heart and consciousness to be changed. Peter, as God's instrument, reminds people of three voices: the **holy prophets**, the **commandments of our Lord and Savior** and by **the apostles**, of which, Peter is one. Peter also mentions Paul in verse 15. This informs us that by the year 64 A.D. (time of writing of 2 Peter) Paul was an accepted apostle. We also know that Paul was martyred about the year 68 A.D. The book of Acts ends with Paul living in his own rented quarters but under house-arrest awaiting to be brought before Caesar. Remember, Paul was a Roman citizen. There, Paul stirs the Jews who had come to visit with him while he was under house-arrest. After that time, we hear no more of Paul, nor receive any more letters.

It is of note that Paul once rebuffed Peter (Galatians 2:11). However, time had passed, and Peter must have reconciled in his heart with Paul, because now in Peter's letter, he recognizes Paul (verse 15) as a writer for God.

There are many observations we receive from 2 Peter 3.

1. There are at least **three memorable verses** often quoted (8, 9, 10).

8 that with the **Lord** one day is as a thousand years,
and a thousand years as one day.

9 not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief,

2. The last days:

day of judgement,

day of the Lord,

day of God,

day of eternity

3. Peter refers 4 times to his audience as **beloved** and once to Paul.

4. Multiple **names for the Deity**:

Uses “Lord” 5 times

Uses “Savior” or “Lord and Savior” And Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
Jesus Christ

Uses “God” “Word of God” “His word”

2 Peter 3:1

This is now, **beloved**, (5x)

the **second letter** I am writing to you [1 Cor. 5:9; Col. 4:16 other letters]

in which I am **stirring up** your sincere mind by way of **reminder**,

² that you should **remember** the words

spoken beforehand by the **holy prophets**

and the commandment of the **Lord and Savior**

spoken by your **apostles**.

³ Know this first of all,

that in **the last days**

[time between the first and second coming of the Messiah]

Matt. 24:3-5 Peter was there when Jesus said . . .

³ And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

⁵ "For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

Matthew 24:32-39

³² "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;

³³ even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.

³⁴ "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

³⁵ "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.

³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

³⁷ "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

³⁸ "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be

2 Peter Verse 3 continued . . . mockers will come with *their* mocking,

following after their own lusts,

⁴ and saying,

"Where is the promise of His coming?

For *ever* since the fathers fell asleep,

all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

⁵ For when they maintain this,

it escapes their notice

that by the **word** of **God** [Genesis 1: God said let there be . . .]

the heavens existed long ago

and *the* earth was formed

out of **water** and by **water**,

⁶ through which the world at that time

was **destroyed**,

being flooded with **water**.

⁷ But the **present heavens** and earth

by His **word**

are being reserved for **fire**,

kept for the **day of judgment**

and **destruction** of ungodly men.

⁸ But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice,

beloved, that with the **Lord** one day is as a thousand years,

and a thousand years as one day.

⁹ The **Lord** is not slow about His promise,

as some count slowness,

but is **patient** toward you,

not wishing for any to perish

but for all to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the **day of the Lord**

will come like a thief,

in which the **heavens** will pass away with a roar

and the elements will be **destroyed** with **intense heat**,

and the earth and its works will be burned up.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be **destroyed** in this way,

what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the **day of God**,
on account of which the **heavens** will be **destroyed** by burning,
and the elements will melt with **intense heat!**

¹³ But according to His promise
we are looking for **new heavens** and a **new** earth,
in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, **beloved**, since you look for these things,
be diligent to be found by Him in

peace, spotless and blameless,

¹⁵ and regard the **patience** of our **Lord** *to be* salvation;

just as also our **beloved** brother **Paul**,

according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,

¹⁶ as also in all *his* letters,

speaking in them of these things,

in which are some things hard to understand,

which the untaught and unstable distort,

as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures,

to their own **destruction**.

¹⁷ You therefore, **beloved**,
knowing this beforehand,
be on your guard
lest, being carried away
by the error of unprincipled men,
you fall from your own steadfastness,

¹⁸ but grow in the grace and knowledge
of our **Lord and Savior** Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory,
both now and to the **day of eternity**.

Amen.

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Verse 14 ‘peace, spotless and blameless,’

^{YLT} **2 Peter 3:14** wherefore, beloved, these things waiting for, be diligent,
spotless and **unblameable**, by Him to be found in **peace**,

^{BGT} **2 Peter 3:14** Διό, ἀγαπητοί, ταῦτα προσδοκῶντες σπουδάσατε
ἄσπιλοι καὶ **ἀμώμητοι** αὐτῷ εὐρεθῆναι ἐν **εἰρήνῃ**

Peace: εἰρήνη. noun dative feminine singular from **εἰρήνη**

Friberg, Analytical Greek Lexicon

[Fri] **εἰρήνη, ης, ἡ** peace; (1) literally, as a state of *peace* (LU 14.32), opposite πόλεμος (*armed conflict, war*); figuratively, as an agreement between persons (JA 3.18), in contrast to διαμερισμός (*division, dissension*); (2) as a greeting or farewell corresponding to the Hebrew word *shalom: health, welfare, peace* (to you) (1T 1.2); (3) as a religious disposition characterized by inner rest and harmony *peace, freedom from anxiety* (RO 15.13); (4) as a state of reconciliation with God (GA 5.22); (5) of an end-time condition, as the salvation of mankind brought about through Christ's reign (LU 2.14; AC 10.36)

εἰρήνη N-NF-S εἰρήνη

Gingrich, Greek NT Lexicon (GIN)

[GING] **εἰρήνη**

εἰρήνη, ης, ἡ *peace*—**1.** *peace, harmony, tranquillity* Mt 10:34; Lk 11:21; Ac 9:31; 24:2; Ro 3:17; 14:19; 1 Cor 14:33; Js 3:18.—**2.** *peace* esp. in the Hebrew sense = *welfare, health*, ordinarily in the context of one's relation to God Mk 5:34; Ro 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 16:11; 1 Th 1:1; Js 2:16.—**3.** *peace* in a specif. Christian sense, connoting *messianic salvation* Lk 2:14; J 16:33; Ro 5:1; Eph 6:15; Phil 4:7. [*Irene*] [pg 57]

Danker, Greek NT Lexicon (DAN)

[DANK] **εἰρήνη**

εἰρήνη, ης, ἡ [etym. uncertain] central mng. 'peace' – **1.** 'state of harmony', **peace** – a. as result from cessation of hostility: political entities **Lk 14:32; Ac 12:20**; individuals **7:26**. – **b.** of peaceful condition with focus on personal relationships relating esp. to acceptance of one

another in common objectives **Mt 10:34; Ro 3:17; Gal 5:22; Eph 4:3; Hb 12:14.** – 2. ‘state of well-being’, **peace** – a. Hebraically as greeting(s) **Mt 10:13; Mk 5:34; Lk 24:36; 2 J 3; Rv 1:4.** – b. as characteristic of the Messianic age and divine favor **Lk 1:79; 2:14; J 16:33; Ac 10:36; Ro 2:10; Col 3:15.**

^{NAS} **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (Gal. 5:22 NAS)

^{NAS} **Ephesians 4:3** being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:3 NAS)

^{NAS} **Hebrews 12:14** Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. (Heb. 12:14 NAS)

In Paul’s letters, he opens with this same form of the word Peace (Romans 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3 as examples).

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Acts 9:31) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed **peace**, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

Romans. 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and **peace** and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and **peace** in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the **bond of peace**.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the **God of peace** Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: **May grace and peace** be yours in fullest measure.

How do we gain peace?

The simple answer is to surrender. In any conflict, the opposing sides have to change to stop the hostilities. One side may win the conflict and the losing side capitulates.

With God, there is no partial surrender. God says . . .

Revelation 3:14-16 14 "**And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:**

¹⁵ 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot.

¹⁶ 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth

The Lord calls for total surrender. There isn't any holding back, even partially. Peter learned this. Peter held his own understanding of the Messiah in [Matthew 16:21-23](#), and Jesus rebuked him.

²¹ From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

²² And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You."

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Paul instructs . . .

[Romans 8:5](#) For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

The sinful problem in the secular humanist church today is that they have their minds on the flesh. What does God's Word say about this situation?

Romans 8:6-11

⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*;

⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Therefore, our goal . . . Since the Lord lives in us, we have peace, and when He comes, He will find us in a state of peace, because He is already present in us. We have come to a place where there isn't any more hostility, because the power of sin and death have been overcome by the power of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.

AMEN

¹⁴ Therefore, **beloved**, since you look for these things,

be diligent to be found by Him in **peace, spotless and blameless,**