

Study on Ephesians 6:23

***“May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give to all brothers *and sisters* peace and love with faith” (Eph. 6:23).**

***“Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your family” (Paul and Silas to the jailer at Philippi in Acts 16:31).**

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life (John 3:16).**

***“God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:22).**

***For we conclude that a person is put right with God only through faith, and not by doing what the Law commands” (Rom. 3:28).**

***“For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith” (Eph. 2:8).**

***“Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1)**

***“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. And God’s peace, which transcends all human understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil 4:6-7).**

Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ. Since you are God’s dear children, you must try to be like him (Lit. “Be imitators of God, as beloved children”). Your life must be controlled by love, lit. “walk in love”, just as Christ loved us and gave his life (Eph. 4:32-5:2).

DVD Spot: The Bible project on Ephesians

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/ephesians/>

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. The church today traditionally looks forward to the end of this world. When will this come? What will happen then? What are you looking forward to?
Read Matt. 24:29-31, 36-44; John 14:1-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:20, 51-57

- 2) At the end of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul finishes with a blessing (*Eph. 6:23*). Do you think that this is a good blessing for Paul to use? And for us to use today? Why, or why not?

- 3) How is your **faith** life? What is faith? Who does God want us to trust in?

Can your faith lessen due to the pressures of life?
Or grow as you spend more time with Jesus?

- 4) How stressful is your life at the moment? Talk about the stresses in your life? Despite the pressures of life, Do you feel at **peace** with God? Why, or why not?

- 5) As we await the return of Jesus, how does God want you to live your life? What priorities of **love** are there in your life? What directions is God calling you to go in, as you follow Jesus?

Quotes:

The following are quotes from Sunday's message on the theme, "Peace and love with faith":

***I've always liked this blessing, *this prayer*.** In fact, I like it so much that I've used it in the past regularly at the end of most burial services that I've taken at gravesides, *and in more recent times at the end of most funeral services.*

I've used it because it represents my most basic prayer for all people, regardless of where 'they are at', *regardless of whether they are Christians or not*: that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ may give them peace and love with faith. And this is my prayer for you all today: that God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ may give *you* peace and love with faith....

*It might seem a strange prayer to pray for you here today, because surely *faith* is a least something that I should be able to assume in most of you here today, *all of you here today*: faith in God as your loving Father, and in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

But faith isn't necessary something that remains constant. It can lessen, *and even fade away*, as it is buffeted by the many winds and gales of life: by suffering, by times of intellectual assault by those who say that they have different answers to life's questions, by pressures to get more of this world's goods for yourself, and so on.

*My prayer for us, *as brothers and sisters in God's family*, is that we will be people of faith. **For I believe that faith in God as our loving Father, and in Jesus as our Saviour and your Lord, is vitally important: for this life, and also so far as the world to come is concerned.**

***And faith is more than just believing that Jesus died on the cross “for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3). Faith is trusting in Jesus, trusting that he suffered and died “for me”.... As long as we are clinging to Jesus as our Saviour, no matter how weak our faith is, we are saved (cf. Matt. 9:20-22).**

***May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give to you all...faith. And may you always have *the peace* that accompanies faith: peace of mind, so far as God is concerned. When we know that Jesus suffered and died for each of us, and when we trust in him as our Saviour, we have peace of mind because we know that God forgives us for Jesus’ sake (Rom 5:1; 8:1). The relief that this brings to the burdened soul, to the inner self, is immense.**

And as God’s forgiven children, we are in the care of our dear Father in heaven. We don’t have to worry about our needs, because God, our Quartermaster, is looking after us (Phil 4:6-7).

***May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give to you all peace *and love* with faith.... What sort of love is Paul speaking about in his prayer for the Christians in Ephesus, and what sort of love am I talking about? Well, the sort of love that God has for us, and that Jesus, God’s Son, showed us in his life here on earth: a self-giving, serving love.**

God doesn’t want us to sit back on our backsides happy and content that we are His loved, forgiven children. No, He wants us to live as His children (Eph. 4:32-5:2). He wants us to be “active in love” (Gal. 5:6). God wants us to be compassionate and caring for those around us, *just like Jesus, His Son was and is* (e.g. Mark 1:40-42; Matt 20:29-34; John 13).