

March 15, 2020
Wisdom & Peace

What do you remember from last Sunday's message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Do you tend to be more of a "caution to the wind" kind of person or a "can't be too careful" kind of person?

Give personal examples situations where you were one or the other.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

What do you believe God might be wanting to say to you in this season?

What are two things God wants to give us in this present situation?

[A: Wisdom and peace]

Proverbs 9:10 says, "The fear of the Lord is the foundation of all wisdom, and knowing God results in every other kind of understanding." Why is the foundation of all wisdom "the fear of the Lord?" What is "wisdom?"

In what ways does our culture feed on fear? In what ways do *you* tend to feed on fear?

READ: Philippians 4:4-9

"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."

What are some reasons we have as followers of Jesus to truly experience God's peace? Name as many as you can.

Jesus said "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (NLT)

What did Jesus mean that his peace is a gift the world cannot give?

Do we sometimes look for peace in places it can't be found? How?

READ: Romans 8:31–39

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? ... Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:31–39 (NLT)

Why is God so insistent that we live in and experience His peace?