

*03-04-Purpose-03*

*Rev. David G. Bostick*

*07/13/08*

***Text:***

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

***Introduction: (Review)***

I believe the kind of peace that Jesus was talking about was freedom from guilt, and nothing gives us lasting freedom from guilt except a right relationship with God. That was the aim of all of John's writings, a right relationship with God. We are looking at why John, this very personal friend of Jesus, wrote the books and letters he wrote. Why was he telling people about this carpenter from Galilee? He was an eyewitness to the life of Jesus; he knew that Jesus was the Messiah. He had seen how lives were changed after an encounter with Jesus. John wants everyone to know that Jesus is the creator, that He became a man, that He surrendered to death, and that He rose from the dead to give eternal life to all who will believe in Him. Using a couple of common phrases, "I write", or "I have written", John tells us very specifically why he authored these books. We have looked at the first four...

1. Belief that leads to eternal life
2. Joy in fellowship with God and His Son
3. Victory through an advocate
4. Clarity in the new law

His next purpose...

***The Purpose: Forgiveness***

1 John 2:12 (NIV) I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

1. Notice that John uses the past tense. This can be taken in two ways.
  - a. He is speaking to believers who have already experienced the forgiveness of God in their lives because they have believed in Him.
  - b. But John knew that many who read his writings or heard his testimony would not yet be in relationship with Christ. Many would be hearing this as an invitation into relationship with Christ and he wanted them to know that their sins were already forgiven. They only needed to accept the gift of the Grace of God.
2. Notice sins are forgiven on account of Jesus name.

In my sermon last week I asked this question; “Will you worship the King of kings by the way you live your life, or will you go back to your adultery (sin)? Either way the law has done its job, it has brought you face to face with the purpose of the law. The law has shown you the love of the Lawgiver.” The love of the Lawgiver is found in forgiveness. The verse we just read talks about forgiveness but forgiveness must be kept in its proper context. Remember John wanted us to understand the old command and the new command. It is in the light of this discussion that John brings us three more purpose statements. Forgiveness, knowledge, and overcoming power.

1 John 2:7-14 (NIV)

[7] Dear friends, I am not **writing** you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

[8] Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

The darkness of the old command, which was often perceived as a list of things to avoid or things to accomplish each day in order to have a right relationship with God, is yielding to the light of the new command of love. The intention of the law was to show the love of the Lawgiver.

[9] Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

[10] Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. [11] But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

[12] I **write** to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

[13] I **write** to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I **write** to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one.

I **write** to you, dear children, because you have known the Father.

[14] I **write** to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning.

I **write** to you, young men, *because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you*, and you have overcome the evil one.

In understanding the text there are four important things we need to note in this passage.

1. Forgiveness comes in the name of Jesus Christ the Messiah.
2. The authority for that forgiveness comes from the creator.
3. The reality of that forgiveness comes through knowledge.
4. The victory of that forgiveness comes through overcoming the evil one.

### The Name:

Forgiveness comes in the name of Jesus Christ the Messiah. In a day when tolerance and acceptance of anyone's views is expected of everyone, we must never forget that Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life. Please do not understand this next statement as arrogance on my part. I make this comment with humility and in the presence of Almighty God. I make this comment only because it came to my mind as a thought that I had to process. "I think if I had my way I would have done the plan of salvation differently." Didn't God know that mankind would come to this attitude of tolerance in an attempt to live in peace with each other? Couldn't God have worked out a plan of salvation that would have appealed to all people of all backgrounds and all walks of life? Then I realized that from the very beginning God has worked with all people of all cultures and backgrounds to draw them to Himself. It is sin and rebellion against God that has convinced people that God's way is too hard, too complicated, too narrow. But God, knowing what is best for all of mankind, worked out His perfect plan of salvation. And the door to eternal life can only be opened by the name of Jesus Christ. I do not say that on my own authority but on the authority of Jesus' own words in...

John 14:6-7 (NIV)

[6] Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. [7] If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." (Notice the word knowledge used here by Jesus. We can only know God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. That's the plan and everyone must come by this way and this way only.)

### The Beginning:

The authority for that forgiveness comes from the creator. I think we have established without doubt that John shows Jesus to be the Creator of all things. His use of the term from the beginning is a very specific reference to the beginning of all things – creation.

It is amazing to me the number of times not only John but most of the men who wrote the Bible referred the beginning of time, the creation. It is one of the most important cornerstones of God's interaction with mankind. That is where the love of God starts. God created because He wanted to share His love. John wants us to know Christ as creator and he refers to it many times in his writings. But this was an important theme in all of the Scriptures. For example in Proverbs 8:22-36 we see Christ as the creator. In fact this passage is very similar to the first chapter of John's gospel.

Proverbs 8:22-36 (NIV)

[22] "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;

[23] I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.

[24] When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;

[25] before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,

[26] before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.

[27] **I was there** when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

[28] when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

[29] when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

[30] Then **I was the craftsman at his side**. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,

[31] rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

[32] "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.

[33] Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.

[34] Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

[35] **For whoever finds me finds life** and receives favor from the LORD.

[36] But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

#### The Knowledge:

The reality of that forgiveness comes through knowledge. It is the knowledge that Jesus the Son of God existed before the creation of everything.

#### The Overcoming of Evil:

The victory of that forgiveness comes through overcoming the evil one.

*"...because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you..."*

#### Illustration

Perhaps an illustration will help us understand what John is saying.

John 5:1-15 (NIV)

[5:1] Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. [2] Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. [3] Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. [5] One

who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. [6] When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

Remember that our emphasis in this series of sermons is the peace that Christ can give us. Let's suppose that Jesus might have added a comment that is not recorded in this passage. He might have said something like this...

When Jesus saw him lying there He asked around and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time. So He went and said to him, "I can give you peace. I would not give you peace like the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled and don't be afraid of something different. Do you want to get well?" [Jn 5:6 (dgb)]

You see, in reality that is what Jesus wanted to do for this man, He wanted to give him peace, the kind of peace that comes from having your sins forgiven.

[7] "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

[8] Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." [9] At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath,

After being an invalid for 38 years and now he is healed and can walk, the man forgets that it is the Sabbath and picks up his mat to walk away. I don't believe that he intended to break the law. I think he was just overcome by the joy of his healing. The religious people did not even notice that he had been healed, they only saw a law breaker. I wonder how many times we are so busy trying to do everything perfectly that we fail to see the hand of Almighty God working in our lives. I wonder how many times someone has just picked up their mat after a touch from Jesus and we suggest to them that there is something they are not doing right in their lives.

[10] and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

[11] But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

[12] So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"

[13] The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

[14] Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." [15] The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

### The Invalid

### **Three Steps to healing**

1. Forgiveness (forgiveness is given freely without asking)
2. Knowledge (forgiveness is accepted in the knowledge of the Creator who is revealed in His Son Jesus Christ)
3. Overcoming power (forgiveness is completed in the power to overcome sin)

## **Jesus**

Jesus is trying to convince the world that He is the Son of God, Messiah. He has the words of life. Everywhere He went He was looking for opportunities to reveal God's love and to give peace to a lost and dying world.

## **The Invalid**

The invalid was just living his life the best way he could. Begging, waiting to get into the water for healing. He was depending on others for his survival. But then peace through forgiveness walked into his life. That forgiveness was only realized after the invalid came to know the Creator through healing. Then overcoming power is offered in Jesus simple statement, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning..."

## **You and I**

What if we could experience what the invalid experienced that day? Let's put ourselves in his position for a few moments this morning and see if we can imagine what he thought and felt that day in his encounter with Jesus.

## **Jesus**

Jesus has just asked the question; "Do you want to get well?"

- - - - -

Why was the invalid at the pool if he did not want to get well? Why would Jesus ask him this question? Was it not obvious that he wanted to get well?

Is Jesus trying to tell him that he really does not want to get well? Perhaps He is trying to tell the invalid that he is comfortable with where he is, just surviving, just getting by.

What is the lesson in this for you and I today?

What if Jesus asked you or I that question today? "Do **YOU** want to get well?"

- What is the first thing that would come to your mind? What you would like Jesus to make well for you today?
- Would you; do you believe that Jesus can heal you or do this thing for you? The real question here is... "Do you believe that Jesus is the Creator?"
- Knowing that Jesus does not always heal in the way that we think He should, are we willing to surrender to His will for our life? That's a very hard question to answer because we have to deal with the pain that lingers on an on.

## **Invalid**

The invalid responds to Jesus question; "I have no one to help me."

- - - - -

Is the invalid just blaming his plight on someone else? Is this just the mindset that it's someone else's fault, or I can't do anything about this? Has he given up altogether?

Has he not learned that if the thing you are doing is not working, repeating it will not eventually make it work. Perhaps the invalid had not lost hope and that is why he keeps coming to the pool.

What was his reaction to Jesus just coming up to him all of a sudden and asking him this question, which I am sure, had a very obvious answer in his mind?

What questions do you think would have popped into the invalid's mind when he heard that question?

- Who are you that you would ask me such a dumb question?
- Will this man wait with me until the waters are stirred up again and then help me into the water so I can be healed?

What are the similarities in this story that relate to our culture today?

Sometimes in our lives we keep doing the same things over and over again expecting different results. Sometimes we are dealing with such pain that hope is swallowed by constant discomfort.

It is important to remember that Jesus physical encounter was necessary for several reasons.

1. First there were personal implications for the invalid. After 38 years he was healed. This healing established Jesus as the Creator. When Jesus told the invalid to stop sinning it was God the Creator, who had just recreated his body and made it well. This encounter had personal evangelistic implications.
2. Second it helped to establish the new law of love and God's details about the final stages of His plan of salvation. This was not just about the invalid and his healing. Jesus did not do this just so he could tell the invalid that he should stop sinning. Jesus also did this to show the religious leaders of His day that He had authority, the authority of almighty God, the authority of the Creator.

**(This last slide is a collage of possible choices in life.)** This man walked away from the pool completely well. With all of the interests in life that were available to him, he had a big decision to make. How would he now live his life? He had to choose what the central focus of his daily life would be. If you had been healed by Jesus like that, and you had a clean slate; a chance to start over, what would your choice be? Jesus is here. He stands beside you like He stood beside the invalid at the pool. He is asking you, "Do you want to walk, do you want to be well, do you want to have peace?" Will you blame your circumstances on others? Have you given up hope? Or will you allow Jesus to change your life?