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SERIES: PEACE IS ATTAINABLE

TITLE: What is true peace?

SONGS: WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR

HALLELUJA PRAISE THE LAMB

INTRO: A little boy was asked the question, “What is peace?” to which he responded, “It’s when you feel all smooth inside”. Now, that’s not a bad description. Webster defines peace, both, as internal contentment and the end of hostilities via an agreement or treaty. But is peace really attainable? Can we ever get to the point where we feel ‘all smooth inside’ even during tumultuous times?

Welcome to Grace Notes. On our program today, our host, Barbara Sandbek, will cover these questions and more as we begin a series entitled ‘Peace is attainable’.

C. S. Lewis wrote...”God cannot give us happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. “

True peace can’t be bought, learned or orchestrated. The peace we long for comes supernaturally from God and is independent of our external surroundings.

Job 5:7 says man is born into trouble. To understand why, let’s go back in time and see where our troubles began. The setting - the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve, our ancestors, resided. God created them in His image and likeness - in perfect unity with their body, soul and spirit, just as God is in His Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Their environment was perfect, too. God gave them dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and over every living creature that moved on the ground (Gen 1:28). They had plenty to eat. Calories weren’t even a problem! God told them to work and take care of the earth. That was satisfying, too, because there were no weeds or pests to ruin the garden. Their relationship with each other and with God was harmonious - the epitome of PEACE.

Had God forced puppet-like allegiance to Himself, Adam and Eve would have lived forever in this peaceful state, but God wanted man to love him out of a free-will, so He gave him the opportunity to choose. He did this by

commanding them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told Adam that if he did, he would surely die. Satan, the fallen angel, appeared on the scene. He accused God of keeping the best from them, and assured them that they wouldn't die; rather they would be like God if they ate it. They gave in and their disobedience brought, evil, or sin, into the world. Their spiritual connection with God was severed, causing disunity of their body, soul and spirit. The perfect unity or peace they knew died in their soul and their bodies started to decay. They would not only experience physical death, they would no longer be comfortable in the presence of a Holy God.

Genesis 3:8 says that when they heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden they hid from him among the trees. They had never known fear before. God forced them out of the garden so they would not eat of the tree of life and live forever in their sinful state. Their sin had eternal ramifications, both for them and for us.

Romans 5:12 says...Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all men, because all sinned.

But God made provision for reconciliation and peace to occur.

Romans 5:19 says... just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

That one man is Jesus Christ, God's Son.

1 Peter 3:18 states...Christ, died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God (that's reconciliation)...

Isaiah 53:5 reads...He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement that brought us PEACE was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed.

***** HALLELUJA PRAISE THE LAMB *****

*From the moment man first disobeyed the Father
We were then held captive by our sin
The law of God demanded a sacrifice
Restoring to Himself His own again*

*So the Lamb, His only Son was freely offered
Atonement for our sins forever made
The innocent and holy still God and God only
Would ransom and redeems us back again*

*Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
My heart sings his Praise again
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb*

*So to the cross they carried him
With all our guilt and all our sin
The lamb of God was slain for our transgressions
And on the cross those nail pierced hands
Reached up to God and down to man
And just as if I'd never sinned
He took me in his arms
Embracing me He willingly forgave*

*For mercy, grace, and love that knows no bounds
Though guilty and condemned I now am free
Forever I'm forgiven for Christ the Lord is risen
And risen with Him we shall one day be*

*Oh, Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
My heart sings his Praise again
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb*

*Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
My heart sings His Praise again
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb*

*Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
My heart sings his Praise again
Hallelujah Praise the Lamb
Praise the Lamb*

We've all broken God's laws, but Jesus ended the hostility between us and God by becoming our Mediator through the new covenant of His shed blood that perfectly fulfills the requirements of the law.

According to Romans chapter 5, we, too, have a choice to make. When we, by faith, believe that Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification, we can have PEACE with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. We are comfortable in His presence – fear is gone.

In Roman 8:1-3 Paul writes...There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. (our sacrificial Lamb)

Listen to the words in Isaiah 9:6 concerning Jesus, written some 700 years before His birth... Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called, Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The PRINCE OF PEACE.

***** WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR *****

WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR
Words and music by Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse

**Wonderful, merciful Savior,
Precious Redeemer, and Friend,
Who would have thought that a lamb could
Rescue the souls of men?
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.**

**Counselor, Comforter, Keeper,
Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost the way,
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way.**

Refrain:

**You are the One that we praise,
You are the One we adore,
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for;
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.**

**Almighty, infinite Father,
Faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne,
Oh, we're falling before Your throne.**

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and tell us at..**

Sandbek Ministries

P.O. Box 581

Fallston, MD 21047

or contact us through our web site at www.gracenotesradio.com.