The Peace of God Ruling in Your Hearts
Col. 3:15

Introduction:
A. We are to let peace of God (peace that comes from God) rule in:
   1. The heart - bringing inner peace.
   2. The (body) church - bringing unity.
B. We will study the peace of God in two lessons:
   1. This time 1st half of text: The Peace of God Ruling Your Hearts - Inner peace.
C. We are sometimes robbed of happiness by inward conflicts. (Cf. Rom. 7:13-25).
D. We need to learn some lessons about happiness (or inner peace).

Discussion:
I. Inner Peace Does Not Prove That We Are Right With God.
   A. May confuse peace of mind with peace of God.
      1. Think saved because they are happy.
      2. Must be happy because they are saved.
   B. May find peace in sin. (Heb. 11:25).
   C. May find peace in false religions and cults.
      1. Because really believe it to be right. (cf. Acts 23:1; 26:9).
      2. Because they are totally committed to it.

II. Inner Peace Must Be Coupled With Godliness.
   B. Godliness with contentment. (1 Tim. 6:6).
   C. Conditional peace. (Phil. 4:4-7).
      1. Rejoice in the Lord. (v.4).
      2. Gentleness. (v. 5).
      3. Anxious for nothing. (v. 6).

III. Inner Peace Does Not Mean Perpetual Ecstasy.
   A. There are “unhappy” times.
      2. Paul. (Phil. 2:27,28).
      3. All of us, but they do not rule a Christian's life.
   B. There are serious times. (Phil. 4:8 Semnos = honest, noble, grave)
   C. There are “ecstatic” and light-hearted times, real happiness is deeper.

IV. Inner Peace Must Be In Spite of Some Things. (cf. 2 Cor. 4:8-18).
   A. Mistreatment. (Matt. 5:10-12; Phil. 1:12-18; Acts 5:41).
   B. Common woes of this world: Death, pain, sin, etc.

V. Inner Peace Must Be Because Of Some things.
   A. Because we have reason to rejoice.
      1. If we are saved. (cf. Acts 8:39).
      2. If we have hope. (Rom. 12:12; 1 Pet. 3:15).
      3. If we are spiritually blessed. (Eph. 1:3).
   B. Because we are have learned obedience in all things. (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).
      1. Learn to”Rejoice” (Phil. 4:4).
      2. Learn to “Be content” (Phil. 4:11).
3. Learn to put away happiness robbers. (Eph. 4:31).

Conclusion:

A. Christians do not need to be unhappy.
   1. If medical problem, then get medical help.
   2. If spiritual problem, then get spiritual help.

B. “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts”. 