

# **“Peace with God”**

**February 25, 2018**

**Our Savior’s Way  
Worshiping Sundays 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM  
Pastor Bill Mann**

Here’s a question--How big is the sun? I’ll bet it’s bigger than you think! The fact is: If the sun was the size of a beach ball the earth would be the size of a green pea 110 miles away. (Think about a beach ball in Ashburn and a green pea in Richmond and you have an idea of what I’m talking about.) The sun is so big! Scientists tell us that it would take 1.3 million planet earths to fill up the sun—that’s how big it is. Here’s another question—How big do you think God’s love is? (And when I say “God’s love”, I’m talking specifically about the salvation we have in Jesus Christ) How big is that? I mean, the forgiveness, the salvation, the justification, the righteousness we have in Jesus Christ—how big is it and what difference does it make in your life? Because I’m here to tell you, that like the sun, God’s love and salvation is a lot bigger than you think!

In Romans 5:1-11 Paul makes it clear that the salvation and the love and the forgiveness of God is huge. Let’s read verse 1 together: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Billy Graham died this week at the age of 99. He was a Christian leader of tremendous stature in this country and around the world. He wrote a book, a Christian classic, called “Peace With God: The Secret to Happiness.” In that book he tells a story about two monks who were traveling along a road together on a pilgrimage. They

came to the edge of a river and saw a beautiful young woman dressed in expensive clothing. She was gazing at the water afraid of the current and afraid of ruining her beautiful clothes. She asked the two brothers (the two monks), “Will you carry me across the river.” The younger, more exacting monk, turned away from her in disgust. His vows prevented him from having anything to do with a woman. The older monk picked up the young woman, put her on his shoulders, carried her across the river and set her down on the other side. “Thank you,” she said, and went on her way. The two monks continued on their journey—the older one enjoying the day and the beauty of the countryside—the younger one getting more and more angry and distracted. Finally, the younger monk could keep silent no longer. He burst out, “Brother, we are taught to avoid all contact with women and here you are not only touching one but carrying her on your shoulders!” The older monk looked at the younger one with pity. He smiled and said, “Brother, I set her down on the other side of the river. You are still carrying her.” Sometimes we do that with our troubles and with our sin. We brood over the wrongs we have done and the mistakes we have made. We can’t set them down. Have you ever noticed—sometimes the Bible says “peace OF God” and other times it says “peace WITH God”? There’s a difference. The “peace of God” is a warm feeling we have in our hearts—like a hot water bottle. The “peace OF God” can be upset by our actions or our circumstances or our anxiety. But “Peace WITH God” is something different. It’s not like a hot water bottle; it’s more like the ocean.

The peace you have WITH God is not based on any circumstance in your life. The peace you have with God is based upon the ocean of love God poured out when he sent his only Son to die for you on a cross. Because Jesus carried his cross, you don’t have to carry your sins or your troubles or your worries. So, let go. You have peace WITH God because Jesus paid it all. He died for your sins—the ones you know and the ones you don’t know, the ones you

can't even name and the ones you are too embarrassed to mention—Jesus paid it all on the cross.

Think about it this way—Think about the last time you went to the beach. Imagine walking or running along the shore—at the place where the sand meets the water. That's kind of the sweet spot. Runners like to run there because the sand is wet and a little hard. Walkers like to walk there because they don't have to trudge through the loose sand, further up the beach. Do you know what that area of the beach is called? Where everybody wants to walk and run?—It's called the "Beach Face." Now, there are days when you can walk or run along the beach face in a straight line--the water is calm--hardly a wave. On other days you're running up and down the beach face trying to avoid getting soaked by the next big wave. This is exactly how a Christian experiences the "peace OF God." Sometimes a believer's heart is calm. At other times it feels like there are waves churning inside. The "peace OF God" is like waves on the shore—sometimes in and sometimes out. But "Peace WITH God" is like the ocean. It's always there. The secret to having "peace WITH God" is Jesus.

But what about the "peace OF God"? Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace OF God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7) Do you see the secret?—The secret of maintaining the "peace OF God" in your heart?—"by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Life can get rough! You get sick, you lose your job, someone you love dies, your spouse leaves. Suddenly your heart is thrown into turmoil. The secret to peace is prayer. There's a great quote from Billy Graham. He said, "The

Christian life is not a constant high. I have moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer, with tears in my eyes, and say, 'God forgive me' or 'God help me.'" God hears your prayers, God answers your prayers, because God loves you. He loves you with an ocean of love that nobody and nothing can take away—not ever!

Look at Romans 5:2—"Through him (Jesus) we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." Through Jesus you have ACCESS to God's GRACE—his love. You can sin and know that you will be forgiven. You can pray and know that he will answer. You can live your life and know that Jesus will be with you and that his love will surround you, no matter what. Bigger than a beach ball compared to a green pea. Wider and deeper than the ocean. Because of God's love you have "peace WITH God."

"Dear God, We know that we are sinners. Where can we find peace? We believe in Jesus. We believe that Your Son died for our sins. We believe in Your love that raised Jesus to life again. I want to trust Him as my Savior and follow Him as Lord, from this day forward. Guide my life and lead me to your peace. Amen."