

Peace in His Glory

Luke 21:25-36

Introduction

Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near (Luke 21:28). The **Explanation to the Small Catechism** says that this verse shows us that *Christ's return is a source of hope and joy for the Christian*. Knowing He is coming back gives us comfort and peace. Today, we'll explore the **Peace** we have in His return.

Understanding Peace

As we've said before, **Peace** is a state of being, a sense of comfort and contentment we have as a result of our relationship with God and what He's done for us. Some people equate **Peace** with being serene. Having a mellow disposition doesn't mean one is peaceful. It's not about a feeling. We can have **Peace** and still get excited about things. **Peace** also isn't something we can conjure up on our own. Like faith, it's a **gift** of God.

Peace Through Repentance

We said Sunday that we get this **Peace** through **repentance**. We're at war with God, because of the **sin** in our lives. When we repent and confess our sins to Him, He forgives us. That removes the barrier between us and God, putting us in a *right standing with Him*. That means we're at **Peace** with Him. We have **Peace**, because we know we are right with God.

Benefits of Peace

Peace with Ourselves

Peace with God has multiple benefits. First, it gives us *peace with ourselves*. Have you ever felt like the cartoon character with an angel on one shoulder and a demon on the other? When we're right with God, we don't have that conflict. Oh, we still get tempted, and we still have our sin nature, but we don't get into fights with ourselves about right and wrong.

Peace with Others?

Sometimes, we might say we have peace with others. But if by **Peace** you mean being in total agreement with, then we don't have **Peace** with others. We're more **confident** in our dealings with others, because we know where we stand. We're on solid ground and our interactions with others are more positive.

The Day of the Lord

This **Peace** affects our life in the present, but it also affects our take on the future, especially the *Day of the Lord*. the Day of the Lord is a phrase used in the Bible to denote a time when God breaks into the world in a special way. In most prophetic literature, it refers to the coming of the **Messiah**. So, when we talk about the *Day of the Lord*, we're referring to the *Second Coming of Christ*. This is also called

Judgment Day. (Read **Matthew 25:31-34, 41**). It's called *Judgment Day*, because that's when He will judge between the people of the world—the saved and the damned.

Redemption

Being at **Peace** with God means we look at *Judgment Day* differently. Christ is coming back to judge the world, but I know how I'll be judged. Because I have peace with God, He's going to take me to live with Him forever. For the one at **Peace** with God, *Judgment Day* is about **Redemption**.

Means of Grace

When we penitently partake of the means of Grace, He gives us that peace and the day of the glory of the Lord becomes not something to fear, but something to long for. *Lift up your heads. Your redemption draws near!*

*May the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
