

# Peace in Times of Temptation

Luke 4:1—13 (v. 8)

## Introduction

In **Isaiah 9**, this Messianic prophesy gives these names for the Christ: *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, [and] Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)*. At Christ's birth, the angels sang: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased" (Luke 2:14)*. In the Upper Room, Jesus told His disciples: *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you" (John 14:27)*. And St. Paul tells us in **Romans 5**: *Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)*. Every Sunday in this season of Lent, we are going to explore the peace we have in Jesus Christ, what it looks like and how He gives it to us. Today, we see how He gives us **PEACE IN TIMES OF TEMPTATION**.

## Peace Vs. Temptation

The word "temptation" inspires feelings in us that are the opposite of peace. Temptation incites turmoil and strife in our lives because it puts us in a wrestling match. (Read **Romans 7:21—23**). Paul is describing conflict, a war within our members. We want to do what is right, but there is this powerful pull toward what we know to be wrong. And that pull is relentless. It seems like the only way to have peace, to stop the war, is to yield to the temptation. But we know that's not the answer.

## True Peace

Paul goes on to ask the question: *Who will deliver me from this body of death? (v. 24)* And gives the answer: *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (v. 25)*. What is true peace? What is the peace that Christ gives? As we heard earlier, Paul said in **Romans 5**: *Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1)*. True peace is peace with God. Because we are fallen, we are sinful. Sin is anything that is opposed to God. To have peace with God, the sin must be taken away. Christ, in His death on the cross, took our sins upon Himself and exchanged them for His righteousness. That's what it means to be justified. That's what it is to have true peace. But that doesn't take away the temptation. Being justified, our sins are removed, but not our sin nature. So, how do we have peace in times of temptation?

## Jesus and Temptation

First, we look to Jesus and how He handled temptation. After forty days of fasting, Satan tempted Jesus with hunger: prove You are the Son of God by changing stones into bread (**Luke 4:3**). Jesus said, *"Man shall not live by bread alone" (v. 4)*, referencing **Deuteronomy 8:3**. When the devil tempted Jesus to bypass pain and suffering by worshiping him, Jesus said, *"You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve" (v. 8)*, quoting **Deuteronomy 6:13**. And when the devil tempted Jesus to put God to the test, He said, *"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test" (v. 12)*, quoting **Deuteronomy 6:16**. Jesus handled temptation by quoting Scripture. But do you see the common thread?

## Peace in the Law

All the quotes came from the book of **Deuteronomy**. Jesus used the Law to defeat the devil and have peace in His time of temptation. But the key to all this is **Deuteronomy 6:13**: *You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve*. This is what the First Commandment is all about. *You shall have no other gods (Exodus 20:3)*. And the Greatest Commandment: *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (Matthew 22:37)*. Martin Bucer, 16<sup>th</sup> Century German Reformed theologian and pastor, said: *If you cleave to the Word of God, Satan cannot prevail against you but eventually will depart (An Ecclesiastical Exposition Upon Saint Luke 4)*. If our focus is on God and His Law, the rest of this falls into place. Though the devil twists Scripture to suit his purposes, he cannot overcome the Word. But the Law doesn't save.

## Peace in the Gospel

Where we find true peace is in the Gospel. We can't keep the Law perfectly, no matter how well we know it. That doesn't mean we shouldn't study it. It is a useful tool in the war against the devil and temptation. We just don't rely on it for our salvation. But salvation and true peace come through Christ and Him alone. He gives us this peace through the Means of Grace. Hear His Word; receive His body and blood. Receive His *Peace in Times of Temptation*.

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*And the peace of God,  
Which surpasses all understanding,  
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

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