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December 2 & 5, 2021
Week 4 – The Peace of God

Introduction:

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

Peace: “Freedom from disturbance; tranquility...a state of calmness and order” (Source: Dictionary.com)

God’s Peace for those who Trust in Christ:

1. Peace in the midst of _____ hardship

Second Thessalonians 1:4

2. Peace in the midst of _____ fulfillment

Second Thessalonians 2:1-2, 7, 9-10

3. Peace in the midst of _____

Second Thessalonians 3:5, 3, 13

Second Peter 8:8-9

Second Thessalonians 3:18

The Big Idea:

The peace of Christ is a promise for those who trust Him. We are not guaranteed the prevention of trials and hardships...but we are promised peace in the midst of them.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Share one or two things that have at times robbed you of a sense of peace in your life. Is there anything about the past two years in particular that has sought to disrupt peace in your soul? Discuss...

Ponderings:

2. In the face of persecution and imprisonment, Paul wrote: "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). He also wrote this after promising that as we trust Christ, "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

How could Paul have possibly maintained this perspective when writing from a Roman prison, having been incarcerated for his faith in Christ? Discuss...

3. Share about a time you were facing a crisis, loss or intense fear, and the peace of Christ ruled in your heart in a humanly inexplicable way...
4. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18 as a group.

In this chapter, Paul warns against idleness, and appeals to believers to be active in their work, as well as active in doing good deeds. Why is this encouragement so relevant for the times we are living in? What parallels do you see in the modern world? In the modern church?

Promptings:

5. If you've been living in fear or frustration due to the unstable climate of the culture we're in, will you confess that as sin, and begin to draw upon God's grace to trust Him more radically as the new year approaches?

Discuss how your life group can encourage a spirit of liberty and joy in one another as you help each other learn to trust God more on the road ahead...