

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

With war in various parts of the world, discord at work or among those with whom you thought you were a friend, or fighting with your spouse or child you long for peace. The dictionary defines peace as "a state or period in which there is no war or a war has ended, a freedom from disturbance, tranquility."

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27) Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) He said this after saying in the previous verse, ". . .in Me you have peace."

The world raises up large armies, expends billions upon billions of dollars to fight for peace. Companies have policy and personnel manuals in an attempt to preserve peace among their employees. Within friendships and families there are peace makers who attempt to rid these relationships of disharmony and bitterness. For a time these efforts may appear successful, but then a new war arises, disharmony occurs between individuals, friendships fracture and families split apart.

Jesus came into the world to make peace between God and us sinners. In the previous chapters of Romans, you read how God declared you righteous for Christ's sake. Since through faith in Jesus you are no longer a sinner in God's sight, you are at peace with Him. You are loved by Him unconditionally. You can approach Him with complete confidence with any care, concern and need.

Paul says that as a result of the peace you have with God you have the "hope of the glory of God." While the world indulges in the pursuit of peace through means that do not successfully bring it about, Jesus gives you a peace even to all eternity. This is the hope of the glory of God that is yours through Christ Jesus your Lord and Savior.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, fill my heart with peace with my heavenly Father. In Your name I ask this. Amen.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well with my soul.
Refrain: It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. Refrain:

He lives— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain:

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. Refrain:
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