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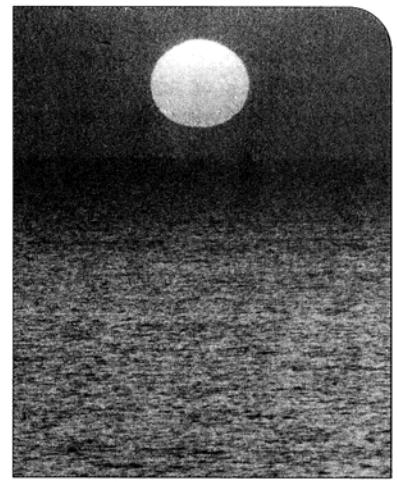
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SFC05

How to Find Personal Peace

Peace for the 21st Century



Have you ever felt as though something was missing in your life? Have you ever asked, "How can I find deeper meaning? How can I find peace of mind?" Have you ever wondered, "Is there anything more to life than getting up in the morning and going to work every day and coming home and eating supper and watching television and going to bed, getting up and doing the same thing the next day and the next? Is there anything more to life than the humdrum of the daily routine?"

Suppose someone discovered a pill that would guarantee permanent peace of mind. Its producer would probably become a multimillionaire overnight. Everywhere people are looking for personal peace. Multitudes are burdened with guilt. Feeling insecure, emotionally troubled, and unaccepted produces an inner void. Mind-related diseases such as stomach ulcers, heart attacks, and nervous breakdowns are the scourge of our society. One root cause of these diseases is an inner sense of restlessness.

Everywhere people are looking for personal peace.

Our lesson today focuses on God's solution to the problem of guilt. It presents the only real answer to the problem of how to find peace of mind.

1. What is our status with God as the result of sin? Romans 3:19

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The reason we lack inner peace is a sense of guilt. Whether we always realize it or not, there is something eating away at us inside. Unless we deal with the problem of guilt, we will never have real peace.

2. How universal is the problem of sin, which produces guilt? Romans 3:23

The Bible answer: _____

_____

3. What are the wages or consequences of sin? Romans 6:23 (first part)

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Left to ourselves, we are caught in a vicious cycle. We are separated from God. Our hearts are filled with guilt. We are restless and lack inner peace. We feel guilty, unaccepted, and unloved.

4. Why is death the natural result of sin? Isaiah 59:2

The Bible answer: _____

_____

God is the source of life. Sin separates us from God. It has separated us from the only source of life. The plan of salvation is God's process to bridge the gap caused by sin. Through Christ we are reunited with God.

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in. As you *believe*, *repent*, *confess*, and *receive* Jesus Christ into your life you will have personal peace.

13. What promise does Jesus give to those who open their hearts to believe in Jesus and accept Him as their personal Saviour? 1 John 5:11-13

The Bible answer: _____

To receive Jesus is to receive His gift of eternal life. If we have accepted Jesus and by faith believe He is our personal Saviour, we can have the assurance of eternal life. Guilt is gone. According to God's Word, we are "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6). We have redemption through His blood (Ephesians 1:7). We are adopted into the family of God and are now part of the royal family of heaven. Would you like to open your heart right now and receive the gift of eternal life Christ so freely offers?

MY DECISION

- ☐ *I once accepted Christ, but I have drifted away. Just now I desire to recommit my life to Him.*
- ☐ *Although I am a committed Christian, I sense the need for a new experience with God.*
- ☐ *I have never fully accepted Christ into my life, but today I choose to give my life to Christ.*

MY PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, lost without You. My sins have separated me from You. I lack inner peace and security. I feel guilty at times. Today I open my heart to You. I confess my sins. I am sorry that I have disobeyed You. I accept Your gift of eternal life today and believe that Your forgiveness, peace, and grace are mine right now. In Jesus' name, amen.

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5. What is God's solution to the problem of sin? John 3:16

The Bible answer: _____

6. Why did Jesus have to come to this world and die for our sins? Was His death necessary? Hebrews 2:9, 14

The Bible answer: _____

Because God's nature is love, He would not leave us to perish without hope. He took the penalty of sin upon Himself. In His death on the cross He broke the stronghold of death.

7. How can Christ's life take the place of my imperfect life? What does His death have to do with my eternal death? Isaiah 53:4-6, 12

The Bible answer: _____

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah uses these expressions declaring Christ was "wounded for our transgressions," "bruised for our iniquities [sins]," "numbered with the transgressors," and He "bore the sin of many." In the plan of salvation, Jesus bears the guilt of our sins. He credits His perfect righteousness to our account. We owe a sin debt that we can never pay. Jesus paid the enormous debt through the shedding of His blood. He died the death we deserve so we might live the life He deserves.

8. How does the apostle Paul describe Jesus bearing our sin? 2 Corinthians 5:21

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Jesus never sinned. He became sin or accepted the guilt of our sin voluntarily. When Christ died on Calvary's cross, He willingly assumed all the guilt of our sins. As the divine Son of God He became a human being, lived the perfect life we should have lived, and died the death we should have died. He is our loving Saviour.

9. What does the Bible say Jesus became for us? Galatians 3:13

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Jesus became a curse for us. All of the guilt of sin rested upon Him when He died on the cross. He bore sins' curse of condemnation. Everything I deserved, He received.

10. How does God save us? Is salvation something we earn by our good works? Ephesians 2:8

The Bible answer: _____

_____

11. What question did a heathen jailer ask Paul and Silas 2,000 years ago that speaks for all of us? Acts 16:30

The Bible answer: _____

_____

12. What answer did Paul give the Philippian jailer regarding his salvation? Acts 16:31

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Believing is simply receiving the grace God so freely offers. God's plan for saving us is simple. It is so simple that anyone can understand it. Often it has been made so complicated that few can understand it. There are four basic steps in receiving Christ. Let's look at each one of them.

Step 1: BELIEVE—John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (NKJV).*

Step 2: REPENT—Acts 3:19

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (NKJV).

Step 3: CONFESS—1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (NKJV).

Step 4: RECEIVE—Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (NKJV).

The Bible teaches us four simple steps of salvation. First, believe that God loves you and wants to save you through Jesus Christ. Second, let the Holy Spirit lead you to repentance. Repentance is to turn away in sorrow from sin that separates you from God. Third, confess your sins and admit you are a sinner and need Jesus Christ. And fourth, receive Jesus into your heart today. Believe He has come, because He has promised to do it when we sincerely ask Him. Don't doubt it. Don't question it. Believe that Jesus Christ now reigns in your heart because in simple faith and commitment you asked Him to come