

Finding Peace In A Hectic World

Jeremiah 17:7-8

➤ Introduction

We live in a fast pace world.

Since my graduation - ATMs, Pay at the Pump, Cellphones, CDs, DVDs, PDAs, & even Computers.

All designed to help us be more productive and squeeze more out of our time.

We are all expected to produce more in less time.

Life is frantic & hectic. We all live in the fast lane.

“Caution - In desperate need of a vacation.”

Where do we find real peace in a hectic world?

One national magazine offered the answer, “Talk to your pet.”

God’s word tells us where to find real peace.

Read Scripture Jeremiah 17:7-8

⁷“*But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. ⁸He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.*” Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV

Our text speaks of exactly what all of us are looking for.

We all know challenging times are ahead and cannot be avoided.

We want the ability to endure them without losing our sanity.

Jeremiah describes exactly the way we want to live -

in that tranquil place where we remain full of life and peaceful.

Illus: William Randolph Hearst was a famous and wealthy newspaper publisher in the 1920s. He loved art and had a huge collection of valuable art. One day he read about a painting and decided he must own it. He sent two men to Europe to find the painting and buy it at any price. The two men scoured for the

world for the painting for seven weeks. They finally located it and notified Mr. Hearst that He already owned it. It was in his warehouse in California.

You and I already own the answer to real peace. It is found in God’s Word.

➤ Content

1. God’s Word is Alive

¹² *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 NIV*

God’s Word is not dead. It is not something of the past; some ancient writing to be studied from a distance.

God’s Word is a living Word that penetrates and stirs the soul.

It touches the heart through the Holy Spirit.

God’s Word speaks sharply and goes right to the inner core of you and I and where we are.

2. God’s Word is Life Changing & Personal

¹³ *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13 NIV*

Quit pretending God doesn’t know about you and understand you or your circumstances.

Nothing is hidden from God. Everything is laid bare before Him.

God’s Word can change your life if you will just trust and place your confidence in Him.

God’s Word is applicable to every struggle and difficulty you will face.

Financial, marriage, self esteem, career, relationships, health - let God’s Word change your life.

Let’s God’s Word be personal to you.

3. God's Word is Powerful

Perhaps the greatest evidence of the power of God's Word is the diversity of its believers.

God's Word can speak to you where you are, new believers, old believers, young, old, etc.

It speaks to our life issues. Have you ever felt like the preacher was preaching directly to you.

God's Word can comfort, challenge, encourage and bring insight.

Illus: Luke Skywalker and "The Force Be With You"

Do you want real power in your life? Trust in the Word of God.

You don't have to be defeated by sin, health problems or anything else.

God's Word can give you peace in spite of difficulty.

4. God's Word is God

¹*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ²*He was in the beginning with God.* John 1:1-2 NIV

Illus: A man is basically his word. How you know a person is based on what they say and what they do.

Revelation is - God revealing himself to man.

God is His Word. If you want to know God, know His Word.

Trust every bit of it as the truth.

5. God's Word produces Faith

¹⁷*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.* Romans 10:17 NIV

What is the opposite of faith? Fear.

If faith comes from hearing the Word, what comes from not hearing the Word? Fear!

What God says to us is always the complete truth.

If faith comes from hearing, we should make it a habit to study God's Word.

This is why Sunday School and regular Bible Study is so important.

Everybody has their opinions and philosophies. Frankly, most of them mean little.

Imagine what your life would be like if instead of living by what you think or what others think, you live by what God says.

Now that is faith produced by His Word.

➤ Conclusion

³*You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.* Isaiah 26:3 NIV

Illus: October 19, 1987 - Black Sunday, stock market fell over 500 points, 22%. A man walked into his Florida stock broker's office and killed his financial advisor. Many people reacted with anger and disappointment. One man went to a missions banquet and wrote a large check for missions. He said, "I'll never lose what I give. I have peace through God in every situation."

Illus: In 1852, our nation elected Franklin Pierce as President. He is the only President in history who refused to lay his hand on the Bible to take the oath of the office. Just a few weeks before the election, his wife and son were in a train accident and his son was killed. He blamed God for the incident. Some years later, President Pierce admitted, "I was foolish. I have now learned that God does love us. I now trust Him."

President Pierce found peace in God beyond his tragic experience. God wants to give you that same peace.

Like the tree planted by the stream, God will give you peace during the hardest of times, but you must trust Him.