



# APPLES OF GOLD

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# PEACE IN A CRAZY WORLD

Prior to my husband's homegoing 12 years ago, many expressed concern about his progressing illness. In the past I called it a "living death," but more appropriate is a description coming from the title of a book by Ronald Reagan's daughter, "The Long Goodbye." That says it all.

Was I worried? Troubled? Fearsome? No, but I was sad. Sometimes I walked away from his bed with tears in my eyes, remembering what he used to be and do.

We have wonderful memories. But we had both passed our threescore and ten more than a decade ago. God has given us every blessing imaginable.

But more valuable than friends and provisions is God's peace.

If you read the newspaper, listen to the radio, watch TV, or read your email you probably receive many messages about our current government and the scary things in store for our country.

Not only is America facing the threat of vast economic changes, loss of our freedoms and possible ruin, but there continues to be fear caused by unbelievable changes in store for Israel, God's chosen nation.

What should we do with all this information?

First, we can pray. Never stop imploring God to have mercy on our nation and time to give the lost in this world more opportunities to hear the gospel.

Second, we can be more diligent in spreading the good news of salvation and peace to all we meet. Everywhere we go, we see that lost people are bound for hell and we have the message of life.

However, we also have the message of light and peace.

We're lights in a dark world. We are surrounded by, and about to be engulfed by darkness. However, do you remember the plagues God brought on the land of Egypt? One of them was the plague of darkness. But "*all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings*" (Ex. 10:23).

We have the light. We need not live in darkness, nor dwell on the thought of it, or worry about it, or tremble in fear of the darkness. We have God's peace.

*"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid"* (John 14:27).  
(cont. next page)

<p><b>Elisabeth Elliot</b> writes about a dear lady, Mrs. Kershaw, who, if she had wanted to look for causes for self-pity or depression, she wouldn't have had to go far. She was old and frail, slightly crippled with arthritis; she could not hear a single sound; she had a son who almost never called or visited her; she had lost her husband; she had very few of this world's goods.</p> <p>But she went through her daily routines with gladness, punctuating them with prayer. She had the peace of God, which is just as Jesus described it--"nothing like the peace of this world." It was His parting gift to the disciples and to any who will simply take it. "<i>I give you my own peace</i>" is what He said.</p> <p>In the same talk in which Jesus spoke of His peace, just before He left His disciples to return to the Father, he said, "<i>You must not be distressed and you must not be daunted.</i>"</p>	<p>How, Lord, can I possibly obey a command like that when trouble--serious trouble--stares me in the face?</p> <p><u>What does peace mean now?</u> Is it merely a feeling of calm? Does it mean to be soothed or comfortable? Is it a vague sense of well-being?</p> <p>The New Testament explains much more about this inward kind of peace. It comes from God. It is a gift, the fruit of faith. It passes understanding. It is Christ himself. "<u>He is our peace.</u>"</p> <p><u>The peace of God means the absence of conflict with the will of God. It means harmony within, and with His purpose for our lives.</u></p> <p>Mrs. Kershaw was not merely adjusted to herself or her circumstances. She was, in the deepest place of her being, reconciled to God.</p>	<p>. She simply did what the Christians of Philippi were told to do: "<i>Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer, and the peace of God, which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus.</i>"</p> <p>Those who accept the grace of this gift know tranquility which can withstand all assaults, a stillness unbroken by the world's noise, and a repose in the midst of intense activity--repose which a nerve-racked world cannot possibly give.</p> <p>For only Christ himself, who slept in the boat in the storm and then spoke calm to the wind and waves, can stand beside us when we are in a panic and say to us "<i>Peace.</i>" It will not be explainable. It transcends human understanding. And there is nothing else like it in the whole wide world.</p>
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## Peace Quotes

<p>No God -- No Peace. Know God -- Know Peace.</p> <p>Honk if you love peace and quiet.</p> <p>The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Great peace have they which love thy law" (Ps 119:165).</p>	<p>He was bruised and brought healing!  He was pierced and eased pain!  He was persecuted and brought freedom!  He was dead and brought life!  He is risen and brings power!  He reigns and brings Peace!</p>
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**P**urposely

**E**ntrusting

**A**ll

**C**ares

**E**ternally

Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war and shooting than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount.

### WHAT PEACE IS NOT:

- The absence of cares, trouble, and war
- Living alone as a quiet hermit
- No clouds, wind, or storms
- A feeling of calm
- To be soothed or comfortable
- A vague sense of well-being.
- Perpetual prosperity, security of tenure, health, and freedom from annoyance



How about this picture of peace? It appears to be so, but only because this pooch is asleep. Look out for wake-up time and those muffins will be history!

## PEACE.....

(more from Elisabeth Elliot)

To make peace with a country or a person or God requires a transaction. To have peace, as people sometimes say, unless it is merely the sense of well-being that commonly goes with getting what you want, must mean that a transaction has taken place. One's will, along with everything else, has been offered up. Peace is the divine answer to our Yes, Lord.

Colossians 3:15 suggests that the peace of Christ is the "arbiter" of our hearts, ruling out all faithless response to trouble, all distress, anxiety, fretfulness, frustration, and resentment. It establishes order.

A tax assessor came one day to a poor Christian to determine the amount of taxes he would have to pay. The following conversation took place:

"What property do you possess?" asked the assessor.  
 "I am a very wealthy man," replied the Christian.  
 "List your possessions, please," the assessor instructed.  
 The Christian said, "First, I have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Second, I have a mansion in heaven. (John 14:2)  
 Third, I have peace that passes all understanding. (Philippians 4:7)

Fourth, I have joy unspeakable. (1 Peter 1:8)  
 Fifth, I have divine love which never fails. (1 Cor.13:8)  
 Sixth, I have a faithful, pious wife. (Proverbs 31:10)  
 Seventh, I have healthy, happy obedient children. (Exodus 20:12)  
 Eighth, I have true, loyal friends. (Proverbs 18:24)  
 Ninth, I have songs in the night. (Psalm 42:8)  
 Tenth, I have a crown of life. (James 1:12)

The tax assessor closed his book, and said, "Truly you are a very rich man, but your property is not subject to taxation."



### GEMS FROM PASTOR ROB

"The Prince of Peace"

We can't find peace in the world. But when Jesus was born, "peace on earth" was promised. Where is it?

1. Peace was **promised**, but that will come about when the "government will be on His shoulders." No peace in the world until He comes.
2. Peace was **postponed** until the Millennium when Jesus will be crowned King. But, before that, the "man of sin" will be revealed – the antichrist preceded by:
  - a. Peace between Israel and her enemies (Daniel 9:27)
  - b. Control of global finances (Rev. 13:16-18)

3. Peace may be **possessed**. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). He made "peace through the blood of His cross..." (Col. 1:20a).

It's either peace with God or war in your soul. He gives us His peace. His peace will keep us.

- a. Be anxious for nothing...don't worry.
- b. Pray about everything.
- c. Peace we can't understand will keep and guard us. (Phil. 4:6-7)

Peace is the addition of power, not the subtraction of problems. When we were children we wanted toys and games. Now we've grown up and we want peace.

Today I learned that if you flip a canoe over you can wear it as a hat... Because it's cap-sized!

Tim: I went riding this morning.  
Tom: Horseback?  
Tim: Oh, sure. He got back two hours before I did."

Prison is just one word to you... But for some people, it's a whole sentence.

*Joe: Every night I take two quarters to bed with me.*

*Peter: Whatever for?*

*Joe: They are my sleeping quarters.*

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*My sister has a lifesaving tool in her car which is designed to cut through a seat belt if she gets trapped...*

*She keeps it in the trunk.*

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Tim: I wish I had the money to buy an elephant.

Tom: What do you want with an elephant?

Tim: Nothing, I just want the money.

Bobby: What is the difference between a lemon, an elephant, and a bag of cement?

Ray: I give up, what's the difference?

Bobby: You can squeeze a lemon, but you can't squeeze an elephant.

Ray: What about the bag of cement?

Bobby: I just threw that in to make it hard.

Customer: I'll have a hamburger.

Waiter: With pleasure.

Customer: No, with pickles and onions.

Ed: How old is your brother?

Ted: He's a year old.

Ed: Huh! I've got a dog a year old and he can walk twice as well as your brother.

Ted: Sure, your dog has twice as many legs.

**BLUEBERRIES** are great for many reasons, especially for your health.

1. Increase memory
2. Stabilize blood pressure
3. Fight cancer
4. Treat acne
5. Help you lose weight
6. Fight inflammation
7. Treat heart disease
8. Provide digital fiber



9. Strengthen bones
10. Extend a longer life
11. Treat stress
12. Augment immune system

Ways to eat them:

Add to hot or cold cereal  
Add to batter before you cook pancakes or waffles  
Include in fresh fruit salads  
Add to fruit juices in blender  
Add to milk and yogurt and mix in blender



## HIDDEN TREASURES

*Last Month's Question:* What day was strictly observed in all early American communities? **THE ANSWER:** The Lord's Day

*Next Month's Question:* On the tomb of which American president are inscribed these words of Christ, "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth on Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

## WHY YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOSE HEART



"Paul wrote, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed" (II Cor. 4:8). What Paul faced would have sent the average person either into depression or to flight. But Paul not only took it in stride, he seemed to grow with it. How could Paul be under such tremendous pressure and stay on top of things? What did Paul know that we don't?

**First,** Paul knew that trials accomplish the purpose of God. Peter wrote, "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed" (I Peter 4:12, 13).

**Second,** Paul had confidence that God would sustain him in times of great difficulty. Take note of Isaiah 43 where God says, "when you go through the waters, I will be with you." It was a foregone conclusion that in the world we will face persecution.

**Third,** Paul could face trouble because he knew we are residents of an invisible kingdom that cannot be shaken or destroyed. Hebrews 12:28 says, "Therefore since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe!"

**Finally,** Paul also knew that we have a home in heaven. Paul wrote, "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands" (II Cor. 5:1).

(By Harold J. Sala in "Today Counts.")



## FOR AND ABOUT SENIORS

The following information pertains to our Triad Baptist Church locally here in Kernersville, NC, but the principles to be observed can be applied to any of our "Apples of Gold" readers and your churches as well. We are launching a new ministry project that makes use of an unexpected gift of COVID-19: more time together at home for seniors.

With school, business and other closings slowing down life for families and individual members, our pastor and staff as well as several church leaders saw an opportunity to better serve the church's older adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, older adults and others with underlying health conditions are most at risk for developing serious illness from COVID-19.

More than a fifth of our church's members at TBC — 80 couples and 120 individuals — are 65 or older and fall into this group. None of us knows why we're facing COVID-19 not just as a nation but globally. But we do know this: we serve a God who is with us and working through this crisis for good. So we need to ask ourselves as a church and as individual Christians, 'What is God making possible for us through COVID-19?'

The most vulnerable group and most at risk for being further isolated are clearly older adults, and what an opportunity to live out God’s command to love, honor and care for older adults just as He does while giving families and those from multiple generations the opportunity to serve and build lasting relationships.

With our church launching an all-online campus to protect public health and comply with CDC guidelines and state orders, we will continue to employ our Project Silver Lining which will help keep older members connected through regular phone calls.

Members commit to call several people they adopt at least two times a week and to relay any urgent needs back to the church so they can be handled as safely and efficiently as possible.

SIGN  
UP  
FOR  
PROJECT  
SILVER  
LINING

Based on sign-ups, the project will look to ensure that as many senior homes as possible are being regularly contacted and have access to church worship services remotely, even if it means securing for the home a DVD or CD of the service (including player if needed) and TV or a computer when our services are livestreamed.

Whether we have support close by or are on our own, we’ve all had to make major adjustments to avoid taking unnecessary risks and getting sick with COVID-19. Some are not able to go and come like they used to and they need our help. This is our Godly privilege to support, encourage and provide for the needs of our elderly at this crucial time in their lives. *(Wayne Thompson, TBC, abbreviated)*

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