

HEAVEN

Rules

“You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.” Isaiah 26:3

God Alone is Our Peace

September 2021

Peace. We seek after and yearn for it. But if you're like me, maybe you search for it in the wrong places or view it in the wrong way. Often I've viewed peace as a life free of trouble or pain; a conflict-free, carefree, stress-free life. But rarely is that the case, is it? Perhaps more than ever, we're hurried and stressed, disappointed and weary. The world feels divisive and angry and out of control.

The truth is, the brokenness of this world shouldn't take us by surprise. Jesus told us it would be this way. In John 16:33, He says, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

How is peace possible in this world so broken and marred by sin?

It's only Jesus, friends. When we put our faith and trust in Him, He reconciles us who were enemies to God. But not only that, He promises His peace standing guard at the door of our hearts.

In Philippians 4, Paul admonishes the people of Philippi, “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

God wants our grief, the weightiness in our hearts, the things that keep us up at night. He says to you, weary friend, “Come, bring it. I want it all.” And if He makes both a command and a promise, we can be sure that when we pour out our hearts and our needs to Him, His peace stands guard like a fortress around our hearts, far exceeding our understanding. In the midst of the chaos and the pain and the grief, He is our peace.

“We can't control the future, but we can trust the One who does control it. Heaven rules.”

Philippians 4:8 continues: “whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Here we're told to counsel our hearts with truth; to preach the gospel to ourselves. If we're being honest, we have to admit that life is still heavy and burdensome in this broken world. So often we look to circumstances to bring us peace. But here we're told to dwell on the character and promises of God. He's good. Merciful. Sovereign. He's been faithful in the past and He will be faithful today and tomorrow, no matter the storm that blows.

Drop down to Philippians 4:9, “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” The God of peace is with us, sisters. In that promise we have a sure hope. No matter what we're facing in our home or job or health or finances, we have the confidence of His nearness and His peace. Cry out to Jesus. He sees, He hears, He knows you today.

Women's
Ministries

“Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to God's Word as our authority, we're passionate about creating a culture in which Titus 2 relationships (older teaching younger) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Personalize & Pray These Scriptures

Psalm 4:8

In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 3:15

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

A Prayer & Heart Response for September

Father God, I see the pain and suffering all around me. Sometimes it's in me. You told us we'd experience trouble and tribulation in this world. But You also said that in the midst of it, You'd give me Your peace. And that's what I'm asking for, God—not just relief from my troubles, but You Yourself. It's You I'm coming after. It's You I want. In the midst of the pain, help me to cling to You and set my mind on what is true. Help me to rehearse your character and stand on Your promises. Help me to be still and rest in Your everlasting arms. Captivate my heart and make me more like You.

Christmas Marketplace



This November 19 and 20, Women's Ministries is hosting our first ever Christmas Marketplace. Our vision is to fill the Multi-Purpose Room with booths showcasing various handmade crafts, textiles, photography, wood crafts—you name it! Our heart is to reach out to the community and welcome them inside; to provide them a fun opportunity to shop unique Christmas gifts and enjoy time connecting with one another over lunch in our cafe. We are asking all interested vendors (men and women alike) to apply online at our website or pick up an application in the church office. The vendor fee of \$50 will go to our REACH campaign. The deadline to apply is September 30. While the format for this year's outreach may have changed, our mission has not. We're working hard to make sure that the gospel is clearly presented and proclaimed, whether through videos, testimonies, or take home gifts for each shopper. We want them to see and encounter Jesus. This is our heart and our earnest prayer. Start dreaming and praying for this amazing opportunity!

Hey, Sister! We're reminding one another throughout the course of the next year that Heaven Rules. We're grounding our hearts to the Truth of God's Word and praying scripture. In fact, this month, a woman in our church family is praying these verses over you! We invite you to pray these same scriptures over your loved ones!

Are you a newer woman to eFree? Would you like us to be praying for you? We will count it a privilege! Contact Nikki at nikki.m@e-free-family.com



We are excited to launch a MOPS Sheboygan eFree group! MOPS Inter-

national is a ministry to moms of preschoolers and school-aged children. This group of women will meet twice a month and it's our heart and desire that through these gatherings, young moms will meet with Jesus and grow in relationship with Him and one another; that they'll be refreshed and better equipped to love and serve their families. MOPS will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 9:30 to 11am beginning September 28. Watch for registration details. Contact Kirsten Brown (kirstenjbrown@icloud.net) for more information or to volunteer your services in our MOPS Kids childcare.