

Encouraging our High School to College Youth 4/27/2020

God isn't content for us to continue to live in a broken world. That may be our present, but it is not our future. God gives us a promise that, in eternity, something better awaits.

God is no stranger to suffering, devastation or carrying heavy burdens. God entered into our hurting world to rescue us. Through His Son, Jesus, He walked among us and experienced all we have gone through and will go through.

Jesus says in the Gospel of John, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (14:6, New International Version). Through dying a humiliating death on a cross, He took the penalty for our shortcomings. Through His resurrection, Jesus has made the way for us to have a relationship with God. Because of Jesus, we have a hope that extends beyond the short window of our lives. And if we have experienced the forgiveness that Jesus offers, we can look to the future with peace and joy, regardless of the present circumstances.

This certainty with God brings me back to the peace that doesn't make sense. Regardless of someone's faith, anxiety and fear are natural tendencies. This world was not created for sickness, for death, for sorrow, for instability. But through Jesus, you can have peace within all the uncertainty and still hope for the future.

Peace doesn't mean you ignore the risks or avoid thinking about the situation. Peace isn't saying, "Oh, everything will be fine." Peace doesn't mean you shouldn't take proper precautions for your safety and the well-being of others. (We still need to take responsibility and follow the guidelines of health experts and officials.)

Peace is acknowledging that the circumstances are bad and may get worse but, by trusting in Jesus, having hope in the midst of those circumstances.

We have the opportunity to live unafraid because of a hope that isn't based on wearing a mask or the development of a vaccine but that rests in a relationship with the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.