

Armor for Future Troubles

John 14:25-31

May 3, 2026

What is anxiety? Why are we so easily troubled?

What if we could find solid peace in any circumstance?

The Open Library of Grace v. 25-26

Knowledge is the first step to overcoming the troubled heart.

Jesus is in control! v. 25, 29.

What does the Paraclete do?

He is a doer, and a teacher. What does He teach?

We can check out all the books of wisdom from God's library.

We have access to the mind of Christ!!

Possessing Peace v. 27

God's peace is not a fluctuating feeling, it is a steady state.

We have this peace as a personal possession.

Trusting the objective ground of God's peace.

Not as the World Gives

The world's peace is temporary and conditional. God's peace is permanent and unconditional.

Where do our rights come from according to the United States Constitution?

Elizabeth Elliot, "The secret is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances."

Rejoicing in the Itinerary of Jesus v. 28-29

Why should we rejoice that Jesus is going away?

He is going home. He is going home to finish His work.

The Rulers of This World v. 30-31

Satan is coming to get Jesus and Jesus rises to meet and defeat him.

Jesus is walking into Satan's hands, but by the Father's command.

Anxiety is like seasickness.

Don't look to the shifting circumstances, look to the horizon.

Meditation

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us... Ephesians 2

It is one thing to know the doctrines of the incarnation and the atonement and a hundred other vital doctrines. It is another, more searching matter to know His heart for you. Perhaps, looking at the evidence of your life, you do not know what to conclude except that this mercy of God in Christ has passed you up. Maybe you have been deeply mistreated. Misunderstood. Betrayed by the one person you should have been able to trust. Abandoned. Taken advantage of. Perhaps you carry a pain that will never heal till you are dead. *If my life is any evidence of the mercy of God in Christ, you might think, I'm not impressed.*

To you I say, "The evidence of Christ's mercy toward you is not your life. The evidence of His mercy toward you is His - mistreated, misunderstood, betrayed, abandoned. Eternally. In your place. If God sent His own Son to walk through the valley of condemnation, rejection, and hell, you can trust Him as you walk through your own valleys on your way to heaven."

Perhaps you have difficulty receiving the rich mercy of God in Christ not because of what others have done to you but because of what you've done to torpedo your life, maybe through one big, stupid decision or maybe through ten thousand little ones. You have squandered His mercy, and you know it. To you I say, "Do you know what Jesus does with those who squander His mercy? He pours out more mercy. God is rich in mercy. That's the whole point."

That God is rich in mercy means your regions of deepest shame and regret are not hotels through which divine mercy passes but homes in which divine mercy abides. It means the things about you that make you cringe most, make Him hug hardest. It means His mercy is not calculating and cautious, like ours. It is unrestrained, flood-like, sweeping, magnanimous. It means our haunting shame is not a problem for Him, but the very thing He loves most to work with. It means on that day when we stand before Him, quietly, unhurriedly, we will weep with relief, shocked at how impoverished a view of His mercy-rich heart we had.

Dane Ortlund