

# PRESCRIPTION FOR PEACE IN TROUBLED TIMES

## RESURRECTION DAY MESSAGE, 2009

### INTRODUCTION –

News of possible economic collapse, civil unrest, rogue nations developing nuclear weapons, and terrorists bent on our destruction are common occurrences now. As a result, “*How can I prepare for what’s coming?*” is the cry often heard as people become aware that we are swiftly careening toward the end of this age and life as we know it. The Bible’s description of this time is one of unprecedented fear and darkness as the spirit of anti-Christ pervades over the land, and the anti-Christ himself eventually begins his rule.

In the midst of this, is it possible for one to be ruled by peace, rather than by fear? Jesus words to His disciples prior to His own horrific death may hold the key. Knowing the fear and confusion His death would cause (on a day that was for years called “Black Friday”), and knowing how unprepared they were for it; He delivered a “prescription for peace” in the midst of troubled times”. His words ring true for us as well.

*\*(Even if I am wrong about my understanding of the last days, and we don’t go through the great Tribulation, but are instead raptured out of here, escaping most if not all of the hard times; it has been stated that all of us will go through something so devastating sometime during our lives, that it will cause us to question everything we believe. The words of Jesus certainly apply to these situations as well.)*

**\*JOHN 14:27 – “PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE YOU. ... DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED AND DO NOT BE AFRAID.”**

### \*JESUS’ PRESCRIPTION FOR PEACE (7 P’s)...

#### 1. **PERSUADED → PERSON**

*\*John 14:1 – “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”*

*\*Romans 8:28 – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*

##### **\*Discussion:**

1. Pastor shared a “Chinese Proverb” that shows that we often cannot tell a good day from a bad day. How did it illustrate that, and what was the point of sharing that?
2. How would a “trust that God is absolutely in control” give one a positive attitude and peace in the midst of troubled circumstances?

#### 2. **PLACE**

*\*John 14:2-3 – “In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to **prepare a place for you**. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

- WE MUST BECOME “HEAVENLY MINDED”

##### **\*Discussion:**

1. Why is it critical that we become “heavenly minded” if we are to be ruled by peace?
2. Why is it so difficult for us to do so and what is often the solution for this? (Hint: The slaves songs of heaven and eternity).
3. What guarantee accompanied Jesus preparing a place for us?

#### 3. **PERSON → PATH**

*\*John 14:6 – “Jesus answered, **I am the way**... No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

*\*Is 9:6 – “And He will be called ... **Prince of Peace**.”*

- “KNOW CHRIST = KNOW PEACE” / “NO CHRIST = NO PEACE”

**\*Discussion:**

1. What is one of the strongest delusions to hit mankind according to Pastor Rich?
2. In your opinion, why is there “no peace” apart from knowing Christ?

**4. POWER**

*\*John 14:12 – “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these...”*

*\*Luke 22:31-32 – “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you Simon that your faith might not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”*

- THE HOLY SPIRIT POWER WAS THE “TURNING POINT” FOR PETER
- LIKE ISRAEL IN EGYPT WE WILL NEED GOD’S POWER IN THE LAST DAY STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ANTI-CHRIST.
- GOD’S POWER WILL BE THERE WHEN WE NEED IT

**\*Discussion:**

1. What made the difference in Peter’s life – changing him from a pillow to a pillar?
2. Why will the power of God be so important in the last days?
3. What illustration did Rich give that shows “the power” will be there when we need it?

**5. PRAYER**

*\*John 14:14 – “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”*

- VITAL BECAUSE IT’S OUR LINK TO COMMUNICATION
- VITAL BECAUSE IT WILL BE OUR LINK TO RESOURCES

**\*Discussion:**

1. What two reasons did we give for prayer being vital to peace in times of trouble?
2. What is one thing that must be combined with prayer in order for it to be effective?

**6. PRESENCE**

*\*John 14:16 – “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.”*

- FATHER: GOD IS EVERYWHERE
- SON: GOD IS WITH US
- HOLY SPIRIT: GOD IS IN US

**\*Discussion:**

1. What is significant about the Father sending us the Holy Spirit?
2. What is another name given the Holy Spirit that might be very helpful in the final days?

**7. PEACE**

*\*John 14:27 – “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

- GOD’S PEACE: NOT ABSENCE OF CONFLICT, BUT PEACE IN THE MIDST OF IT
- PEACE BEYOND COMPREHENSION \*(PHIL 4:7)

**\*Discussion:**

1. How does God’s peace differ from the world’s concept of peace?
2. How will knowing this provide helpful in the days to come?

**CONCLUSION:** The words to the Hymn – I KNOW WHO HOLDS TOMORROW

