

Sunday, October 15, 2023

## Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

*Peace with God brings the peace of God. —Anon.*

Among those who sail the seven seas, there's a concept well known as "the cushion of the seas." The idea has been mentioned by preachers for more than 150 years.

The Rev. Dr. A.T. Pierson (1837-1911), Presbyterian preacher and Charles H. Spurgeon's successor at the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, wrote about this phenomenon and Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote a hymn. The hymn begins:

*When winds are raging o'er the upper ocean,/ And billows wild contend with angry roar, / 'Tis said, far down beneath the wild commotion,/ That peaceful stillness reigneth evermore.*

This, of course, was before the age of the modern submarine. The idea of an undisturbed layer of the ocean, far beneath the surface, was quaint, but not positively confirmed.

Still, Pierson believed in this "cushion of the sea": "Down beneath the surface that is agitated by storms, and driven about with winds, there is a part of the sea that is never stirred. When we dredge the bottom and bring up the remains of animal and vegetable life we find that they give evidence of not having been disturbed in the least, for hundreds and thousands of years."

Pierson was a pastor, Christian leader, missionary and writer who preached more than 13,000 sermons, wrote in excess of 50 books, and gave lectures as part of a transatlantic preaching ministry that made him famous in Scotland, England and Korea. For him, this "cushion" was a prime example of the peace mentioned by the apostle Paul in today's reading from Philippians.

Paul writes, "Do not worry 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" (vv. 6-7).

Of this peace, Pierson notes, that "the peace of God is that eternal calm which, like the cushion of the sea, lies far too deep down to be reached by any external trouble and disturbance; and he who enters into the presence of God, becomes partaker of that undisturbed and undisturbable calm." Or, as 19<sup>th</sup>-century novelist Anthony Trollope puts it in *Barchester Towers*, "God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb."

The peace of God is a tempered wind, a deep cushion that keeps us unfazed when storms threaten to overwhelm us. So we dive deep into God's cushion of calm, and find there peace for our souls.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Merciful God, thank you for your peace that protects me in times of stress. Amen.*

*Blessings,  
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*


**Daily Bible Readings**
**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 13-16

**Monday:** Ezra 1-4

**Tuesday:** Haggai 1-2; Zechariah 1-2

**Wednesday:** Zechariah 3-6

**Thursday:** Zechariah 7-10

**Friday:** Zechariah 11-14

**Saturday:** Psalms 120-123

***Verse to Remember***

*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;  
and the greatest of these is love.*

—1 Corinthians 13:13

# WORD CHAIN

**DIRECTIONS:** Work with the words below to get from the first to the last by changing just one letter in each step. Each word must be a real word! Give it a try!

**Example:**

Change Diver to Major

**RIDER**
**RIPEN**
**DIVER**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**DINER**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MINER**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MINOR**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MANOR**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MAJOR**
**HOPES**
**LONER**
**Which statement is false?**

1. Isaiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom.
2. Isaiah served in the court of King Hezekiah.
3. Before going to the court of the king, Isaiah was a shepherd.
4. When Isaiah's king was dying, the king prayed, and God added 15 more years to his life.

**Answers to Word Chain:**  
 Rider, riser, rises, roses,  
 hoses, hopes; ripen, ripper,  
 river, liver, lover, loner.  
 Statement 3 is false.

