

**Sing beforehand:** Versification 19-1:1

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth<sup>1</sup>. Beloved, grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>2</sup>. By the powerful operation of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Psalm of praise 138:1,4

-1-

*With all my heart will I record  
Thy praise, O LORD, and exaltation.  
Before the gods with joyful song  
Will I prolong my adoration.  
I bow down toward Thy holy place  
And for Thy grace and truth extol Thee.  
Thou like Thy Name, O LORD Most High,  
Didst magnify Thy Word so holy.*

4-

*LORD, though I walk 'mid troubles sore,  
Thou wilt restore my faltering spirit;  
Though angry foes my soul alarm,  
Thy mighty arm will save and cheer it.  
Yea, Thou wilt finish perfectly  
What Thou for me hast undertaken;  
May not Thy works, in mercy wrought,  
E'er come to nought, or be forsaken.*

Confession of faith: Apostles Creed

*I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: I believe in the Holy Ghost: I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: 1l. The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. Amen.*

After the Law we sing Psalm 34:6

Law<sup>i</sup>

Psalm 34:5

-5-

*Come, children, hear my voice;  
You I will teach to fear the LORD.  
Who is the man desiring life,  
Its pleasures and rewards?  
Keep then your tongue from wrong  
And let your lips no falsehood speak.  
Depart from evil and do good;  
True peace and concord seek.*

Prayer

- **Doxology:**
- **Worship:**
- **Confession:**

**Supplication (for pardon of sins):**

- **Thanksgiving:**
- **Intercession (for the need of the congregation, the church, authorities, sinful world and appeal to the promises of God)**
- **General supplication:**
- **Illumination of the Holy Spirit (necessary for the ministry of the Word):**

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 124:8

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:3

Amen.

Psalm 72:2,3,4.

-2-

*May for the people hill and mountain  
Bring forth the peace they seek,  
And justice, gushing like a fountain,  
Restore the faint and meek.  
May he defend the poor and needy,  
May he their children save,  
And crush oppressors, proud and greedy,  
Who for their downfall crave.*

-3-

*May he, so high above the nations,  
Live while the sun endures,  
He, who throughout all generations  
Our joy and peace ensures;  
And may he be like rain that drenches  
The meadows parched and pale,  
Like showers whose abundance quenches  
The thirst of hill and vale.*

-4-

*May in his days Thy justice flourish,  
The earth with peace abound,  
Thy righteousness the people nourish,  
And evil not be found.  
Long may he live, and rule our nation  
While sun and moon endure;  
May he in every generation  
Their peace and joy ensure.*

Scripture reading: 1 Corinthians 15<sup>3</sup>. Jude 1<sup>4</sup>

Text: 1 Corinthians 15: 55-58

**O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?** <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Jude 1:2

**<sup>2</sup>Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.**

It is of some importance to take note of who the person is who says certain things! People from whom one would never have expected it sometimes say things!

Which is exactly what happens here!

- The Jude who makes this pronouncement is one of the brothers of the Lord Jesus Christ – he is one of Mary's sons.
- Initially he, and the rest of his family did not have a very high opinion of the Lord Jesus.
- At any rate; they certainly did not think that He was God their Savior.

We know this, because the following is written down of them:

**<sup>3</sup>His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. <sup>4</sup>For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. <sup>5</sup>For neither did his brethren believe in him. (John 7:3-5)**

Pay attention to the words: **For neither did his brethren believe in him.**

- In the earlier stages of his life, this Jude did therefore not know the peace of God.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2015&version=KJV>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jude+1&version=KJV>

- This came to the fore in amongst others the tensions within the family because of this Brother of his who performed miracles and who was then sent away by them, to rather go and perform for other people.

Somewhere something happened which caused Jude and his brother James to convert.

- This conversion clearly entails that they also had to make peace with their brother – and then some!
- They had to reach that point at which they accepted the salvation, which He grants, and at which they believed in Him as their Redeemer.

*Only then could they poses the grace and peace of God and also wish it upon others.*

In order to know the peace of God, it is required of one to be fully converted.

- To be unconverted leads to death.
- The unconverted have many of the things in their lives, which are relatives of death and therefore cause misery in their lives.

When in the chapter concerning love, the Lord describes how love is, the opposite thereof is someone who does not have this love, and therefore also does not have the peace of God!

**<sup>4</sup>Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, <sup>5</sup>Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; <sup>6</sup>Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; <sup>7</sup>Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (1 Corinthians 1:4-17)**

He who knows the positive things:

- Charity and kindness and
- Rejoicing in the truth
- Who has the ability to simply bear what is bad;
- Someone who believes all things and hopes all things– such a person has the peace of God!

Discord, in whichever form, is a close relative of death.

- To be dead surely means that one day our bodies will die, but the true meaning of death only comes to the fore after our physical death has passed!
- The height of death is hell.

It is of some importance to know that death has many precursors on this life.

- Which are some of the things, which Jude experienced: family strife, hatred of this brother of theirs whom, with all His miracles and His disciplining, they experienced as a braggart.
  - Which is why they chase Him away, and tell Him to go perform His deeds elsewhere, because they do not believe in Him.
- It is also the miseries, which we cause others by all our wrong deeds.
- It is also the injustice and pain which others cause us when in sin, they transgress against us.

The sum of all of these things, the Bible calls: “the sting of death”.

- Death together with all of its shoots has as its aim the wounding of people.
- Those who participate in all of these things, and who are carried away thereby, do not have the peace of God!

Over against this discord – which is the poison of the devil’s sting – by Jude’s pen, the Holy Spirit prays that we may be the recipients of God’s peace and grace.

- What a wonderful wish!
- Who in this service today does not desire that peace?!

Which is why it is important to listen to how the Lord comforts us, so that we may have His peace inside of us. The Lord does so by revealing the re-creation to us.

From verse 50 the Lord starts revealing something far-reaching regarding the resurrection of the body from death.

**<sup>50</sup> Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.**

The word flesh means more than merely the body and flesh – it includes sin and the all the miseries thereof. The words **flesh** and **blood** frequently appear in the Bible.

- Actually it's a rather strange expression as a person's blood is after all nowhere but inside his body (flesh).
- But it is the Holy Spirit's way of speaking of us as earthly and material creatures – while still in this life.

*Hence the tremendous importance of this revelation: Someone who has an interest only in this earthly and material life could never be with the Lord in the Hereafter.*

For which there is a very important reason:

- The kingdom of God is not earthly – it is heavenly.
- There is a long preamble to this pronouncement in the letter to the Corinthians:

**<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14.**

The Holy Spirit reveals that already in this life we can know exactly who will enter eternal life:

- After all: we do know whose lives are stuck in the transient things! It is not a life at peace with God.
- Such people cannot enter the imperishable world, simply because it is never a part of their existence!
- Surely one cannot be something in the hereafter, which in this life you never desired to be!
- That's why the following is pointedly added:

**flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. (1 Corinthians 15:30)**

The Bible reveals nothing further regarding this matter – which is also not necessary to do, because it is fully revealed in the preceding verses:

**<sup>42</sup>So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: <sup>43</sup>It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: <sup>44</sup>It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup>And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. <sup>46</sup>Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. (1 Corinthians 15:42-46)**

In 1 Corinthians 15 the Lord tells us exactly in what manner we obtain victory over death! (Verse 55).

- We, who were mortal during our earthly life, then become immortal.
- With immortality there is also perfection and peace with the Lord.
- Peace means: *Completeness, perfection, to be whole, to be well. A state without any tension.*

Which is what the Holy Spirit prays for us: the peace of God.

This why the Lord mocks death:

**<sup>55</sup>O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?**

Figuratively speaking death has a sting.

- It can cause hurt
- In this life it can cause us pain and suffering which causes us to think that the Lord seems to have withdrawn His peace.

But that is exactly the point!

- Death and its relatives cannot kill! It can only wound and cause pain. No more.
- That's why already in this life; the Lord asks where its killing power is, or wherein its victory lies?
- The Lord Jesus destroyed all of its power!

To us who believe in Him, the Lord reveals the devil's strength.

- His means of committing murder is but one thing: sin.
- But for us, who confess the Lord Jesus, reconciliation for that sin has already been done – in other words the devil was again conquered!

- We have the peace of the Lord.

With our Lord Jesus' victory the devil indeed lost his power.

**<sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.. (1 Corinthians 15:57)**

Peace for us came in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**John 14:27 <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

**John 16:33 <sup>33</sup>These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

There is no chance whatsoever that we would ourselves have been able to obtain this victory over death.

- But happily and mercifully the Lord grants it.
- The life is so certainly granted to each one, that even after our earthly life, we will live – unto eternity!

The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross.

- But God wishes for those, to whom He preached, to know that this death on the cross is not the end.
- Against all things, which would make life complicated and difficult – by letting it pass us by and by not allowing it to become a part of us – we must live on – because we already have the peace of God.
- The peace of the Lord does not make allowances for us to do, or partake in the doing of ugly and peace threatening things.

The Lord Jesus lives, and we will live.

- That is why the fact is also emphasized in Ephesians 2: 4-6<sup>5</sup> where it is written that in Christ, we have already been resurrected, and are already with Him in heaven! We are assured that now already we are partakers of God's peace!
- We have God's peace now, because if we accept the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus and appropriate it for ourselves, then nothing can stand between God and us any longer.
- Therefore our lives must exemplify the fact that we have broken with each type of sin that would threaten God's peace within us.

Closing prayer

Closing psalm 31:1, 14

*-1-  
In Thee, O LORD, I've taken refuge.  
Let shame not cover me;  
I put my trust in Thee.  
Come in Thy righteousness and save me  
From those who do not fear Thee;  
My God and Helper, hear me.  
-14-  
I praise Thee, LORD, for all Thy mercy,  
Thy wondrous love for me.  
I felt cut off from Thee  
When foes besieged me like a city,  
But Thou in tribulation  
Didst hear my supplication.*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, <sup>5</sup>Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) <sup>6</sup>And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:14

**Amen.**

**Dr. M.J. du Plessis  
Reformed Church Bellville  
Date:**

<sup>i</sup> Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21

*God spake all these words saying:*

*I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

*I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

*II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

*III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

*IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

*V. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

*VI. Thou shalt not kill.*

*VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

*VIII. Thou shalt not steal.*

*IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

*X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*