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SALVATION

If you are not a believer in Jesus Christ, or aren't sure and would like to become one, then you need to believe that Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, that he was God who became a man, that he lived a sinless and perfect life, keeping the Law of God perfect in every way, that he kept faith perfectly, and that he was crucified on that cruel cross for your sins, mine and the entire world- he died for our sins! His death on the cross paid the penalty fully, one time for all sins that we have ever committed and that we will ever commit. He died; he went down into the bowels of the earth, even into Hell, and was raised from the dead on the third day in a resurrected, eternal body. He ascended back into heaven, was seated at the right hand of God, and is now Lord over heaven and earth. He is coming again to judge the world, to raise the dead, where he will give an eternal, resurrected, glorified body to everyone that has believed on him as their Lord and Savior, and to establish his kingdom one earth.

You come become a Christian right now as you read this, by personally placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; believing that he is God's only begotten Son, that he died on the cross for you and that he was raised from the dead and is now seated in heaven at the right hand of God the Father. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.."* Acts 16:31a And when you do trust Christ, and Christ alone, as your Lord and Savior, then go to God the Father in heaven in prayer and tell him so. Tell him that you have believed on his Son, thank him for his Son, and thank him for forgiving your sins and saving you! *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord", and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* Romans 10:9,10 *"For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13 *"Therefore, being justified by faith (declared righteous), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1

Living In Tranquility

“For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” 1 Timothy 2:2

A. Intro

If there was ever any concept that God's people need to live by in their lives in these days, it is this doctrine of living in tranquility. There is really no need to readdress the problems going on today with the rising costs of food, gas, housing, the pressure we all face, etc., nor the wickedness and insanity in the national and international scene. All one has to do is turn on the TV and you will get a dose of negativity that overwhelms the senses.

The issue in tranquility is not how I can change the world, but how I can change my world! And in this study we want to focus not only on just developing the inner dynamic of peace, but on developing tranquility in our immediate external environment. Both inner peace and outer tranquility are important in living a life of tranquility.

To begin with we need to understand that **there are things in life that one can change**, and **there are things in life that one cannot change!** There are things that we have volitional control over, and there are things that we do not have volitional control over. One cannot change the world, **but one can change their immediate surroundings and the present state of their soul.**

We can make a decision that will bring about a change in the state of our **souls** from one of turmoil and agitation to one of peace. We can also begin to change the atmosphere of our **homes** from one of chaos, turmoil and anger to one of tranquility. And, even to a degree, bring about a state of tranquility in the place where we **work** and the general **area** where we live.

Pressure on our souls comes externally, and inevitably, from living in the world and the world system. *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have **tribulation** (thlipsis - pressure): but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33*

If pressure is not kept out of the soul by the exercise of faith in the Word of God, then it becomes converted to **stress** in the soul, which is optional. *“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** (tarasso - stress), neither let it be **afraid**.” John 14:27*

And once stress is in the soul, then the emotional complex of the flesh will become activated, with **fear** being the first emotion to be aroused. Tranquility in our life is not only a pleasant environment because it removes stressful things that agitate us, but it can also act as a buffer for our spiritual life and thereby help promote a spiritual atmosphere more conducive to prayer, fellowship with God and the study of his Word.

B. The emphasis on peace in the Word of God.

In the OT *Yahweh* was the God of Peace, as he is in the NT. The city where he was worshiped, Jerusalem, means the City of Peace. The name of the priest who reigned over the ancient city of Jerusalem was Melchizedek, meaning the King of Righteousness, who reigned over Jerusalem, the City of Peace. Even the name of David's son, known by most as Solomon because of the Septuagint translation, but his original Hebrew name is *Shelomoh*, which meant "Peaceful". David named his son, *Peaceful!*

But I'd like to bring out some of the quotes from the NT to emphasize how important this concept of peace is and how it is to be the thing that sets believers in Christ aside, along with the concept of *agape* love, from all the people of the world. **God's peace is to be in our souls, in our homes and in our lives!**

Romans 1:7 - "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and **peace** from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:3 - "Grace be unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Corinthians 1:2 - "Grace be to you and **peace** from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Galatians 1:3 - "Grace be to you and **peace** from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Ephesians 1:2 - "Grace be to you, and **peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:2 - "Grace be unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 1:2 - "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:1 - "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Thessalonians 1:2 - "Grace unto you, and **peace**, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Timothy 1:2 - "Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and **peace**, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord."

2 Timothy 1:2 - "To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and **peace**, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Titus 1:4 - "To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and **peace**, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour."

1 Peter 1:2 - "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and **peace**, be multiplied."

2 Peter 1:2 - "Grace and **peace** be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,"

From this one can see quite clearly that God has not only given us his peace, but that he wants all believers to live in peace now and forevermore. We could also add the writings of the Apostle John in this matter of peace.

2 John 1:3 - "Grace be with you, mercy, and **peace**, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love."

3 John 3:14 - "But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. **Peace** be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name."

Revelation 1:4 - "John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and **peace**, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;"

And of course there is what the Lord himself said to the disciples about peace.

John 14:27 - "**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."

I bring these quotes out, not for the purpose of documenting the concept, but for the purpose of **letting it impact us!** The concepts of peace and tranquility are not to be a passing doctrine that we learn and then tuck away in our frames of reference, **but an abiding principle by which we live our lives!**

God wants us to enjoy his peace everyday of our lives and implement the principle of tranquility in our lives and surroundings. The question is, if we're not doing this, then why not? Is it because they we are caught up in one or more of the many lusts of the flesh? Is it because we are worrying about the things going on in the world, or about money? Is it because we are being controlled by our emotions? Is it because we are operating under a childhood survival self defense mechanism? Or is it because we are not living by faith in the promises of God?

The Apostle Peter tells us that **peace is to be a high priority** for every believer in Christ. "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it." 1 Peter 3:11 He uses the words *zeteo*, to seek, and *dioko*, to pursue after. To **seek** brings in the ideas of the whole person, the mind, body, soul, volition, desire, wanting something. While the word **pursue** brings in the idea of not merely wanting it, but actually going after it!

C. Living A Tranquil Life.

Passages documenting the concept of living tranquil or quiet lives .

1 Thessalonians 4:11 - “*And that ye study to be **quiet**, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;*”

Romans 12:18 - “*If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live **peaceably** with all men.*”

2 Thessalonians 3:12 - “*Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with **quietness** they work, and eat their own bread.*”

1 Timothy 2:2 - “*For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a **quiet** and **peaceable** life in all godliness and honesty.*”

1 Peter 3:4 - “*But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and **quiet** spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*”

Peace, eirene, is an inner spiritual state in the soul brought about by the filling of the Holy Spirit. “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, **peace**, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*” Galatians 5:22 While **tranquility, hesouchios**, is the external concept that deals with one's environment and surroundings.

One can have **peace** in their soul without having **tranquility** around them, but one cannot have tranquility without peace in the soul. We're to have peace in our souls at all times, and be working toward implementing tranquility in our homes and lives.

God not only wants us to live in the spiritual state of peace in our souls, but to live **peaceful** and **quiet** lives. 1 Timothy 2:2 - “*For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a **quiet** and **peaceable** life in all godliness and honesty.*” υπερ βασιλεων και παντων των εν υπεροχη οντων ινα ηρεμον και ησυχιον βιον διαγωμεν εν παση ευσεβεια και σεμνοτητι

Christians are familiar with the concept that God wants us to live in his peace, even though we may not always do so. But I don't think that most of them know that God also wants us to live in tranquility in our homes, work and our comings and goings.

When we can get to the place that we create a home environment that is free from negative concepts, arguments, noise, chaos and turmoil, and be able also to experience the peace that God has given to us all, then we are living in tranquility.

For most Americans, and for many Christians, this is not their day to day reality. They get up and rush their breakfasts, the radio blares rock and roll music, the kids are bickering, the parents are arguing trying to get them out the door to go to school. Then they jump into their cars and hit the freeways to go to work. They work in a place that is less than ideal, around people that are less than tolerable, get back into their cars, hit the freeway and rush back home to more noise, TV, etc.. They have no tranquility in their homes.

D. Definitions

To begin with we'll look at some of the definitions for the English words, then take a look at the definitions for the Greek words used in the NT.

Peace – is defined by the world as freedom of the mind from annoyance, distraction, irritation, anger, worry, etc., which would certainly rule out any form of mental illness. While Biblical peace is not just the absence of things that are negative, but also the presence of something else, the spiritual state of God's peace.

Peaceful - is a soul or life full of peace, or one that is characterized by peace.

Peaceable – is a person's disposition that is inclined to avoid dissension, strife, etc.. One avoids certain negative concepts to retain their personal peace.

Peaceably – describes the manner of how you deal with people. It's dealing with people according to the principle of peace.

Quiet - is the absence of noise and commotion, whether internal or external.

Tranquility – speaks of an atmosphere of serenity or calm.

Antonym – the opposite of peace is stress in the soul, a troubled soul, a soul that is agitated, or in turmoil, due to any reason.

There are two words that deal with the concept of tranquility and both are found in 1 Timothy 2:2 - “*For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a **quiet** and **peaceable** life in all godliness and honesty.*” υπερ βασιλευων και παντων των εν υπεροχη οντων ινα **ηρεμων** και **ησυχιον** βιον διαγωμεν εν παση ευσεβεια και σεμνοτητι

The first word for **quiet** is *eremos*, ηρεμων; it is used only once in the Bible by the Apostle Paul, and is very similar to the word, ερημων, the word for a desert, or a deserted place, where only the position of the two e's are changed.

The Greek word for a desert can also be used for the mountains and forests. **The significance of a desert is not the absence of trees, but the absence of people!** Its significance is not on the idea of what we call a desert, but on a deserted place! A place where there is no people, whether it's in the mountains or the desert is immaterial.

People bring with them noise, commotion, hustling, bustling, yelling, fighting arguing, arrogance, every form of old sin nature activity and even demonic activity. Even without opening their mouths, or being involved in some form of overt activity, people carry with them their attitudes of arrogance and anger which is projected around them.

But when people are gone there is solitude. And with solitude there is no negative energy, only quietness, then a calmness, or a *peacefulness* as we would say. No more noise, no screaming, crying and the rest, just quietness and a sense of calm.

For example, you take a vacation up to the mountains to camp alongside a beautiful lake, and when you get up in the morning everything is peaceful and quiet. *My how beautiful it is*, we say. Then a couple of hours later, the peace is shattered by the noise of motor boats, people water skiing and making noise. The water of the lake is no longer calm, but agitated; and the quietness of the air is nothing but riotous noise. But at the end of the day when they all go back to the city, the water becomes calm again and the air is quiet.

Or like so many end up in our area; people from the city work all year long just to go camping up here at one of the lakes. They desperately need this time to unwind, and think they will have some peace and quiet in one of the public campgrounds. Only to find themselves surrounded by hundreds of other campers, tents a few feet from each other, power generators going, boom boxes blasting out rock and roll, parents yelling and kids screaming. There is no peace, no quiet, no tranquility. **And once they're gone, then a sense of quietness and tranquility comes back to the lake again.**

Solitude is where you're alone and from that idea comes the concept of being left alone. It's not always possible for God's people to live in places of solitude here on the earth, some don't even like the idea, but there is the idea that we should be left alone by other people, and by the government, to live our own lives, both in the physical sense and the spiritual sense.

There are two important concepts that God wants us to implement in our lives. The inner concept of seeking after having his **peace** in our souls, which he gave us at salvation. And then there is the external concept of establishing **tranquility** in our homes, our lives, our families, and our surroundings as much as we can.

This external tranquility has the ideas of quietness and a certain amount of solitude. No noise, no commotion, no negative energy, no old sin nature activity, no turmoil, no demonism, but only things that are quiet, positive, beautiful, uplifting, inspiring, etc..

Being able to have solitude at times in our lives is important for many reasons, one of them is that it enhances the idea of the believer seeking out God without having any distractions or irritants going on around them. Places without people, or sparsely populated areas encourage this idea.

When the Lord was with the disciples there were times when he wanted them to get away from the crowds to an area where there was no people to find a place of quiet. *“And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.”* Mark 6:31

The second word used in the passage is *hesouchios*, ησυχιον, *“that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable** life”*. This documents the principle that God wants his people to live quiet and peaceable lives here on earth. Not just that God wants us to have his peace in our souls, but that also **he wants our lives to be quiet, calm, tranquil!**

It's hard to differentiate between the two because they are so similar in meaning and that the inner dynamic is so often affected by what's going on outside. But Plato spoke of *hesouchios* as the tranquility of the philosopher who escapes from the turmoil of politics.

One can only imagine the scene of leaving the talking, yelling and arguing going on in the political arena and going out into the quiet of the countryside. Or the one who withdraws from the lawlessness of a world he cannot change.

For the purpose of our study we can refer to **peace** as the inner state of the soul that is filled with the Holy Spirit; **quiet** as an external environment free from all the negative energy of noise, commotion, hostility, agitation, sin nature activity, etc.; and **tranquility** as the *ambiance* of one's environment as the result of all that.

As mentioned before, you can have inner peace without external tranquility, but you can't have true tranquility without inner peace. And as believers in Christ, **God not only wants us to have peaceful souls, but tranquil lives as well.** Paul emphasizes that in 1 Timothy 2:2, “*that we may **lead a quiet and peaceable life** in all godliness and honesty.*”, where he talks about leading, or living, a quiet and peaceable life.

The word for life here is *bios*, βίον, which looks at our physical lives. We have spiritual lives that we have to live in the new nature and the filling of the Holy Spirit, and that's very important. But we also have to live in this world with our physical bodies and these physical lives have to be lived also on a physical level! **Peace** deals with our spiritual life, while **tranquility** deals with our external physical surroundings.

The next word used in this passage is *diago*, διαγωμεν, when he says, “*that we may **lead a quiet and peaceable life.***” *Diago* was used frequently with *bion* by Greek writers to **denote how one spends his life here on earth.** It isn't speaking of just being alive, but the manner in which, or how he lives his life, or how he spends his time on earth.

God wants us to have inner peace through faith in his Word, the filling of the Holy Spirit, living in the new nature and prayer. But he also wants us to live lives of tranquility as well! And to do this we will have to learn to apply biblical principles in our lives.

This means that **the principle of peace** needs to govern our dealings with people in life, our neighbors next door, the work place, our commute to work and school, our families, the music we listen to, the TV programs we watch, the material we read, and who it is that we associate with in life. **We must learn to seek peace and pursue after it.**

This idea of **seeking peace** tells us that we are to want peace more than all the other things in life that we want. And this idea of **pursuing peace** tells us that we are to pursue after, as a goal, the concept of peace and tranquility in our lives more than all the other things in life that we are chasing after.

The reason why believer's homes are so chaotic, so noisy, so full of various forms of sinful activity is because the parents and the children are all seeking to gratify their lusts and pleasures! The husband has his lusts that he wants to gratify; the wife has her lusts that she wants to gratify; each of the children have their lusts that they want to gratify; with the result that there is war in the home and battle after battle. Bitterness, resentment, anger, arguing, yelling, screaming, fighting and quarreling this is the atmosphere of most or many Christian homes today; a far cry from the tranquility God wants us to have.

E. Effecting Tranquility In Our Lives.

As important as the matter of inner peace is to all believers, and not to minimize it in anyway, we have covered that subject in our On line study of *Living in Peace*. What this study deals with is **how to implement tranquility in our surroundings**. It's to expand peacefulness outward to our external environment.

To effect tranquility in our lives we will be looking at our environment, the area that surrounds us over which we have some degree of control, as to what we allow in it, which will encompass the ideas of **removing that which is negative** from it and **incorporating into it that which is positive**. One needs to break the programming that has taken place over the years by TV and our culture and start creating our own environment, an environment that is conducive to living our own spiritual lives.

This takes in the idea of that which is spiritual and that which is physical. In the spiritual realm we will want to incorporate those things that pertain to the spiritual life and get rid of those things that pertain to the world, the flesh and the devil. In the physical world we are going to be dealing with **audio and visual concepts**.

In the **audio** realm we will need to start incorporating sounds that are pleasant, beautiful, uplifting, etc.; sounds that are beneficial to our souls, or no sound at all. In the **visual** world we will need to incorporate things that are pleasant to the eye, pictures, paintings, plants, that are beautiful, versus sights and sounds that are ugly, harsh, vile, etc.. For **as noise is to the ear, so is clutter to the eye**.

Noise is a loud, or harsh, or inharmonious sound. Its effect is a wearing on the nerves and **a source of stress**. It is rated right behind air pollution as one of the major problems that we have in a modern society. Horns honking, vehicles making noise, people yelling, kids screaming, freeway traffic, the din and clatter of restaurants, the work place; every where we go noise is all around us, and even when *people don't pay attention to it any more*, it still has **a negative unconscious effect on people's souls**. We need to get it away from us, or us away from it, at least for awhile.

So what do we do about it? We can't change the world at large, but **we can change our own immediate environments**. We can listen to only music that soothes us, instead of music that irritates us, or to no music at all! We can create a home or an apartment environment, that is quiet, or has pleasant music playing in the background. Or have a room in the house that is quieter than the others. Or perhaps go to a nice park, or out into the woods to get back to nature, just to get away from the noise that surrounds us. Some will play the sounds of nature on their music system in the home of birds chirping, or the sounds of the sea. Sound silly? Not really when you consider the results!

And as noise is to the ear, clutter is to the eye. **Clutter** is to fill, or litter things in a disorderly manner. It creates a visual inharmonious picture to the eye. One needs to so arrange their environment in a manner that is orderly, calm and visually appealing. Junk scattered all over the place is not how one does that. When one walks into their space what they see should relax them because it is clean, neat, pleasant to the eye and orderly.

Now we are not talking about a spiritual environment, or creating a spiritual environment in all this. We are talking about creating a physical environment that is tranquil and calm by being pleasant to the eye and to the ear.

Perhaps we could better understand the principle involved in this by looking at the word *tarasso* in the Greek. The word *tarasso* is translated by the English word, *troubled*. “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 14:27

The word meant to stir up, to agitate, to throw into a turmoil. It looks at a calm lake, then having the wind toss the water all around, as in a stormy sea, or the agitation of our washing machines. Agitation of the emotions on the one hand versus being calm. In today's English it means to be stressed by constant agitation from external sources.

We know that inner peace for the believer in Christ comes about by the filling of the Holy Spirit in the sphere of faith. Inner peace is a given in this matter. What this study is about is creating a peaceful environment in our homes and lives.

Here's a picture that will help make the point: a motorcycle sitting in your living room revving up its engine roaring for all it's worth spewing out its exhaust. And on the other hand we have a beautiful Japanese garden with a little pond and running water. Which environment do you think would be more conducive to inner peace and outer tranquility?

We're to live in the peace that Christ gave us, and we're also to live in peace with our fellow man as much as possible. We're to live in peace; we're to work in peace; we're to live peaceably with our neighbor; and to develop lives of tranquility!

We begin with our own spiritual life that God gave us at salvation of having inner peace. Then we go to having peace and quiet in the home. If not the whole home, then a room in the home that is yours. Then we expand this tranquility out to our backyard, if we have one, or perhaps a patio or balcony. From there we expand it to our cars, and then on to our work spaces. These are our spaces, our environment, and these are the areas in which we can and are to effect tranquility.

In these areas we are to eliminate all the things that get us worked up and incorporate things that relax and calm us. We need to eliminate listening to music with a rock and roll beat, or negative depressing lyrics, in the home and car and replace it with music that calms, or has inspiring lyrics. Instead of watching TV shows that focus on sin, sex and violence, we need to watch shows that challenge, educate and inspire us. Instead of watching the news, (the nightly sin report), which stimulates the emotions of fear and anger, we should turn it off altogether!

Why not read a good book, study the Bible, quote Scriptures, pray, memorize the promises of God, listen to doctrinal tapes, get books on how to develop a positive mental attitude or enthusiasm. In other words, we need to regulate the information that's coming into our homes and lives and get rid of all that's negative and start incorporating all the things that are positive and calm us down, not work us up!

And this also means that we need to stop hanging around people who are negative, angry, bitter and who drag us down; and start associating with people who are positive to faith living and positive to the Word of God! Remember, there is no tranquility around negative, bitter, angry people. Even if they are not saying a thing, (they will in time), **their negative energy will destroy the tranquility of your space.**

In our homes we can clean them, organize them, get rid of pictures that are ugly or distasteful, all the plastic junk and clutter we have accumulated and decorate with living plants and items of interesting design. If we have a little balcony or patio, we can put up a privacy screen, some potted plants and make it an inviting place to go to read our Bibles and pray to God. If we have a back yard we can create a special little area of tranquility.

In our cars, we don't use them just for commuting, we use them as opportunities for prayer, Bible memorization and fellowshiping with God. In effect what we are doing is changing our cars from modes of transportation to mobile chapels! We need to transform our cars into positive, tranquil areas, just as we are doing in our homes!

But to effect tranquility in our lives, we will have to implement more than just having quiet, calm and pleasant concepts. Because we live in a world full of people, we are going to have to learn to apply certain principles in our dealings with those in the home, the spouse, parents, children, etc., and those outside the home.

The first thing we need to have is a soul and life full of God's peace, or having a life that is characterized by **peace**. We will need to learn to live in inner peace both in the home and outside the home. And to so order our life, as to where we go and what we will do, in such a manner that is conducive to retaining our peace. For, ***God has called us to peace.***

This brings us into the area of **being peaceable**, which gets into the idea of having a peaceful disposition that is inclined to avoid dissension, strife, etc. One avoids certain negative concepts to retain their personal peace. The world is full of people who want to argue, who want to prove their point; people who want to get into your face and stir up strife and problems. They're in the work place, the home and every where we go. We can't change them, and it's not our place to do so, but we can avoid them, and we can avoid dissension and strife and the arguments that they want to start.

The next thing we are to become, so we can have some tranquility in our lives, is to **live peaceably with all men**. Peaceably describes the manner of how you deal with people. It's dealing with people according to the principle of peace. We are to talk to people and treat them in a manner keeping with peace. Instead of cursing those who curse us; we bless them. Instead of railing back anger for anger; we reply with a soft answer. Instead of losing our calm in the face of confrontation, we remain calm and peaceful. Basically it has the idea of instead of injecting more sin into a situation we inject peace.

Hopefully this study will motivate all of us to start on the journey of effecting peace and tranquility in our lives and to stick with it.

Pastor Mike