2020 05 31 Peace be with You.

Acts 2:1-21. Psalm 104:24-34,35b.

1 Cor 12:3b-13. John 20:19-23.

What is the essence of ‘peace’?

“peace on earth – Good-will to men or to men of Good-will”

“Blessing’ means –

“may all your needs be met in Jesus”

“may the peace of God which passes all understanding rest and live with you now and always”

“My peace I give you, I do not give as the world gives …”

“they cry peace, peace when there is no peace.”

In the writings before the record in Acts:2 we see the followers of Jesus huddled together in fear that they would be arrested and killed, they were a group of defeated beaten people with no hope or expectations – then they heard that Jesus body was gone – a new feeling – a small birth of ‘maybe’ of despair maybe or of ’what is happening’ – maybe …

Then – in the middle of the them – there is Jesus! – a ghost – a spirit – no - flesh and blood that they could touch and who ate with them but who was not hindered or imprisoned by walls and the earths physical elements.

His words ‘peace be with you’ and later – He breathed into them “receive the Holy Spirit.” Not a physical touching but picture the mouth to mouth resuscitation that breaths lives breath in to a dead person!

The night before his death Jesus told them that he would “Ask the Father and the Father would send them the Holy Spirit – the Comforter, the ‘Paraclete’ – the One who is with you…………

Now the Lord gives them the ‘Gift’ – He had returned to The Father and was with us again – the unity of One God shows in the Lords statement about the Spirits coming: “I will not leave you alone, ‘I will’ come to you.”

True peace is God’s Presence with use.

For me personally trust is peace -despite medical issues I find that I am at peace when I have in me the knowing that I trust God – no matter what; in the small things and the complicated things – in the things that I can control and those that I cannot. (This does not always mean that I show that trust in quietness but it is real in me and brings the internal quietness I call peace.)

Thanking GOD is peace in words. This is true if all is good and if trouble surrounds us. We are told in ……. To ‘rejoice in trouble because working with God in troubled times brings patience and that develops into proven character and into hope – the certainty that is Gods peace in us because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit – Gods Presence – in us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. (Romans 5:3-7)

It is Holy Spirit – Gods Presence in us that enables us to cry out “Jesus is Lord”! (1 Cor 12:3).

V21 peace is in knowing what the end of this life is “whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” – we are secure in our relationship in God.

In Genesis we read that God formed us out of the soil/earth but we were simply a beautiful sculpture - then ‘God breathed the breath of life into us and we became living beings’. One of the names or descriptions of Holy Spirit/Gods Presence is ‘breath’ – when we sinned, we ‘died’ and hid from God – we had driven our peace out – we were living bodies but our relationship with God was dead.

NOW in trust in Jesus the Saviour the ‘breath of God’ has returned to us – **we are again – *living beings.***

We live in peace with God – new creations in the Christ- the Saviour.

*At peace with God – one of Gods children.*