

## Be of Good Cheer (John 16:33)

FCBC - November 26, 2023

Howie Campbell

**Intro:** ad lib ..

**Message:**

(Setting the Stage)

You know, we live in a broken world. Adam and Eve were the first to break it, and it has been broken ever since.

Wars, famines, natural disasters, pestilence, you name it. We can sometimes think evils are much worse than they've ever been, but maybe that is only because we here in America have enjoyed relative peace and prosperity.

Some speculate this moment of tranquility is coming to a close here in America, and indeed we see the fracturing and even the crumbling all around us. In fact, congratulations Memphis, two years ago you were titled the most dangerous city in America.

Aren't you glad you're not living in Ukraine, North Korea, Gaza or Israel?

Well, that's the geopolitical situation but how about the more personal world. What's going on in your life?

I'm certain you're feeling the sting of higher everything. I love to eat organic butter on my toast, but I can't pay \$9.00 per pound for it. I might have to get creative and use tahini, or olive oil or something. Hopefully I won't have to get real creative and make ground up, lightly salted cockroach paste.

I don't know about you, but I'm having trouble saving money. Lately it seems I'm saving money for the next tank of fuel for my vehicle.

But I'm always reminded of what a wise sage once said: Remember, there are always folks that have it worse than you do.

(Digging deeper)

At this time of year we often read the prophecies concerning the coming of Messiah Jesus. According to Isaiah 9:6 one of His names is "Prince of Peace". When the angels announced His birth to the shepherds they mentioned, peace on earth and good will toward men.

**Jesus was born two thousand years ago ... where is the peace?**

Could it be God had another kind of peace in mind?

One of the things the people of Israel weren't looking for was for God to reveal Himself in the form of three persons. Clearly Jesus is the Son of God. He taught us to pray to our Father which is in heaven. The Jews had enough trouble with this already. They wanted to kill Jesus because he made "himself equal with God." **Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. ( John 5:18)**

Now we have another person of the Godhead introduced by

Jesus. READ **John 16:1 – 11.** (Full text on the screen)

The Holy Spirit was sent to do specific things and one of them is to comfort us. So the peace God intends for us now is both peace with God (we get to call him our Father), and inner peace in the midst of troubles.

No matter the circumstances, if we keep our focus on God, He will insure we can have victory in everything because His perfect peace sustains us for the battle.

You will keep him in shalom whose mind is stayed on you: because he trusts in you. **Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. (Isaiah 26:3)**

Do you have questions? Ask God who gives to all liberally. **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (James 1:5)**

Do you have insurmountable problems? I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)**

Are you weary and feel like giving up? Run the race so as to win the prize. **Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. (I Corinthians 9:24)**

In all things keep your focus on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He will never leave nor forsake you. **Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrews 13:5)**

So be of good cheer, brothers and sisters. While it may get tough at times, we have the assurance that Jesus will help us through even the most difficult circumstances.

READ – **John 16:33 "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."**

Yes, in the world we will have tribulation, but be of good cheer... Jesus will see us through.

**Matt 14:22 – 33** (Full text on the screen) esp. v27 Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid.

- In the storms of life, Jesus says, be of good cheer, here I am with you
- When doubts and fears accost us, Jesus says, O you of little faith, why do you doubt.
- When problems persist and you see no way out, and the crushing weight of responsibility tries to flatline you, Jesus says, walk on, I am with you, be of good cheer.

If you keep your focus on Jesus you certainly can **be of good cheer**.

If this message of encouragement is resonating with you and you'd like someone to pray with, please come forward ... If you're wanting to go deeper with Jesus and need some encouragement, please come forward ...

## 你們可以放心 (約翰福音 16:33)

FCBC – 11/26/2023

Howie Campbell

引言: 即興發揮

信息: ( 建立架構 )

你該知道，我們生活在一個破碎的世界之中。亞當和夏娃是第一對打破它的人，從那時起世界一直是混亂一片。

戰爭、飢荒、天災、瘟疫，凡是你能想到的事情都會發生。有時我們會認為邪惡比以往任何時候都要嚴重得多，但這也許只是因為我們美國這裡享有相對的和平與繁榮。

有些人推測美國所有的平靜時刻即將結束。事實上，我們看到周圍的一切正在破碎，甚至崩潰。事實上，恭喜大家，孟菲斯在兩年前被評為全美最危險的城市。

相比之下，你豈不應該慶幸自己不是住在烏克蘭、北韓、加薩或以色列嗎？

那是不同地區的政治局勢。你個人的情形又如何呢？你的生活發生了什麼事？

我確信你肯定能感受到物價高漲的痛楚。我喜歡在吐司上塗有機的牛油，但我付不起每磅 9 美元的價格。我可能需要發揮創意並使用芝麻醬或橄欖油之類的東西。希望我不必發揮真正的創意來製造磨碎加鹽的蟑螂醬。

我不知道你的情形，但我發現目前沒有多少剩餘的錢可以存起來。最近，我甚至要為我的車輛下一次加油存錢。

但我總是想起一位智者曾經說過的話：記住，總有人比你的處境更糟。

( 進深發掘 )

每年的這個時候，我們常常讀到有關彌賽亞耶穌來臨的預言。根據以賽亞書 9:6，祂的名字之一是「和平之君」。當天使向牧羊人宣布祂的誕生時，他們提到在地上平安歸與神所喜悅的人。

**耶穌兩千多年前已經出生... 但是平安在哪裡？**

難道神的心中還有另一種平安嗎？

有一件事以色列人並不去尋求的就是神以三個位格的型態顯現自己。很顯然耶穌是神的兒子。祂教導我們向天上的父祈禱。猶太人在這方面已經覺得很厭煩了。他們想殺耶穌，因為他「將自己與神同等」。所以猶太人越發想要殺他；因他不但犯了安息日，並且稱神為他的父，將自己和神當作平等。（約翰福音 5:18）

現在耶穌介紹另一個的神的位格。讀約翰福音 16:1 – 11。（經文打在屏幕上）

聖靈被差遣去做特定的事情，其中之一就是安慰我們。因此，神希望我們現在所擁有的平安既是與神和好（我們能夠稱祂為我們的父），也是在困境中內心的平安。

無論情況如何，如果我們將注意力集中在神身上，祂會確保我們能夠在一切事情上得勝，因為祂完全的平安會支持我們去爭戰。

你會讓他的心一直緊靠在你身旁：因為他信賴任你。堅心倚賴你的，你必保守他十分平安，因為他倚靠你。（以賽亞書 26:3）

你有問題嗎？求問那位白白賜智慧給眾人的神。你們中間若有缺少智慧的，應當求那厚賜與眾人、也不斥責人的神，主就必賜給他。（雅各書 1:5）

你有無法克服的問題嗎？靠著那加給我力量的基督，我凡事都能做得到。我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能做。（腓立比書 4:13）

你是否感到疲倦並想放棄？繼續奔跑賽程，直到贏得獎賞。豈不知在場上賽跑的都跑，但得獎賞的只有一人？你們也當這樣跑，好叫你們得著獎賞。（哥林多前書 9:24）

在所有的事情上，要把你的注意力集中在耶穌身上，祂是我們信心的創始者和完成者。祂總不撇下你，也不丟棄你。你們存心不可貪愛錢財，要以自己所有的為足；因為主曾說：『我總不撇下你，也不丟棄你。』（希伯來書 13:5）

所以，兄弟姊妹們，你們可以放心。雖然有時可能會很困難，但我們確信耶穌會幫助我們度過最困難的情況。

讀經 — 約翰福音 16:33 「我將這些事告訴你們，是要叫你們在我裡面有平安。在世上，

你們有苦難；但你們可以放心，我已經勝了世界。」

是的，在世上我們會有苦難，但要放心... 耶穌會與我們同在。

馬太福音 14:22 – 33 (經文打在屏幕上) 特別是 27節：「你們放心！是我，不要怕！」

- 在人生的風暴中，耶穌說，放心吧，我與你們同在
- 當懷疑和恐懼臨到我們時，耶穌說，你們這小信的人哪，為什麼懷疑？
- 當問題持續存在而你看不到出路，而沉重的責任重壓試圖壓垮你時，耶穌說：繼續前行，我與你同在，請放心。

如果你把注意力集中在耶穌身上，你一定能夠放心。

如果這一篇鼓勵的訊息引起了您的共鳴，並且您希望有人與您一起禱告，請到前面來...如果您想更深入地了解耶穌並需要一些鼓勵，也請您到前面來...