

**How
To
Acquire
Peace,
Quietness
And
Assurance**

Charles Shong

Copyright © Charles Shong

All Rights Reserved

All quotations are from the Authorized (King James) Version.

Table of Contents

Preface	3
Introduction	4
Conditions For Israel in the Old Testament.....	6
Conditions For Church Age Saints in the New Testament	10
The Righteousness of God	14
Practical Work of Righteousness for Christians	17
Reason to Perform Work of Righteousness	21

This study is based on a sermon preached on the work of righteousness. The purpose of this book is to teach a child of God how to obtain peace, quietness and assurance. Ever since the fall of Adam, fallen men are plagued with uncertainties and troubles. Men are even willing to pay large portion of their wealth to secure peace, quietness and assurance in order to live a life of sanity and dignity. Unfortunately, peace, quietness and assurance are ever so elusive. However, the Scriptures do reveal to the people of God how to secure peace, quietness and assurance in this troublous world. It is God's goodness and mercy that He prescribes to His people how to acquire peace, quietness and assurance in this fallen world. God certainly hopes His children will enjoy true peace, quietness and assurance from Him rather than they seek after the false promises from sinners in this world. May the child of God learn from the Holy Scriptures how he may obtain peace, quietness and assurance which only this gracious Creator God can give.

And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. (Isaiah 32:17)

Peace, quietness and assurance are vital components in life any man would pay a premium to acquire. Who does not want peace? Who does not want quietness? Who does not want assurance? Fallen men pay premium for insurance products for a piece of paper to get assurance by mitigating certain risks they envisage might occur sometime in the future. They pay premium over a long period of time to secure such assurances. They are satisfied that they have received some paper certification and they then can sleep in peace. They have peace of mind based on some paper assurances from fickle minded fallen men. This is rather amazing when over the years promises have been broken and contracts have not been honoured and yet men still choose to trust men to honour their words and keep their promises. Some people will go as far as to paying protection money to gangsters to secure peace, quietness and assurance so that they might continue to do business and make a living. Peace, quietness and assurance are so vital that fallen men will be willing to do almost anything to secure them. Those who fail in this endeavour have a high likelihood of ending up in a mental institution. Some even take their own lives. The delicate mind of fallen men is not designed to be taxed to its limit and fallen men know very well the value of peace, quietness and assurance. So they stumble and fumble along the way to find peace, quietness and assurance from broken cisterns and trust in the arms of flesh. Will men ever learn from history? Fallen men are usually unteachable.

However, the Scriptures tell us how to secure peace, quietness and assurance. This is by paying a premium call the work of righteousness. Isaiah was living in a time when the Northern Kingdom was wiped out and the Southern Kingdom was on the verge of collapse. Who does not want peace, quietness and assurance forever under such appalling conditions? In our days, we have terrorism screaming on the front page of our newspapers almost on a daily basis. Bombs go off ever so often that war risk premium has become standard component to be applied to many insurance products. Who does not want peace, quietness and assurance that there will be no bomb explosions in our midst? Today the premiums travellers have to pay is security tax for transit over checkpoints and transport systems. There are all kinds of viruses out breaking threatening to wipe out large numbers of people. Who does not want peace, quietness and assurance in such times of uncertainty and trouble?

But will some paper documents one obtains by paying insurance premium can really offer peace, quietness and assurance? Is this not the broken cisterns and trusting in the arms of flesh for cheap assurances as far as spiritual and eternal matters are concerned? Why fallen men are so quick to trust the words of men written on pieces of paper and even paying large sum of money to secure such false hopes but will not trust in the words of the living God? In Isaiah 32:17 we are told, the work of righteousness shall bring peace and the effect of righteousness is quietness and assurance forever.

Israel from time to time did have quietness when they performed work of righteousness. One such time was during the time of Gideon when the children of Israel repented and sought after Jehovah God under the leadership of Gideon. Because of their turning to Jehovah God, they were blessed with peace and quietness: **Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon. (Judges 8:28)**

Unfortunately, such times of quietness were short-lived as Israel turned their back on Jehovah God ever so often. But God did promise to give His people rest subject to their fulfilling certain requirements. God promised David there would be peace and quietness to the Kingdom in Israel during Solomon's days. **Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. (1 Chronicles 22:9)** David acknowledged God's goodness and he understood the reason why the Lord blessed him. Because of this David said: **The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness: according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. Therefore the LORD hath recompensed me according to my righteousness; according to my cleanness in his eye sight. (2 Samuel 22:21&25)** King David knew what was required of him from Jehovah God and he did that which was right in God's sight and the Lord rewarded him and recompensed him for his work of righteousness. David called what he did his righteousness. For men can indeed perform work of righteousness according to God's prescription of what are expected from them.

Notwithstanding, some Christians only know of one kind of righteousness, which is the righteousness of God and they reject all other forms of righteousness. They point out the fact that man's righteousness are as filthy rags where they read from Isaiah 64:6: **But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.** They have confused salvation by work of righteousness and work of righteousness as required from men by God. Good works can never earn anyone eternal salvation. Men trying to perform good works to merit salvation is only self-righteousness. However, God did command men to work righteousness. The verse before this verse makes it clear that man can work righteousness: **Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh**

righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways: behold, thou art wroth; for we have sinned: in those is continuance, and we shall be saved. (Isaiah 64:5) So there were those who worked righteousness. But because Israel had sinned and their work of righteousness became filthy rags in the sight of God. There are always Christians who think men cannot do work of righteousness.

Consider what David claimed: **The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me. The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me. Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight. (Psalms 7:8; 18:20,24)**

It cannot be that David was lying or his understanding of God's work of righteousness was flawed. Had he made such fraudulent claims, the Lord would certainly have rebuked him and put in writing that David was teaching falsehood and instigating rebellion against God. So David did work of righteousness. This assurance of peace and quietness was paid by David for doing work of righteousness during his days. So Israel had peace and quietness during the days of his son, Solomon. However, when Solomon sinned by worshipping false gods, all peace, quietness and assurance were taken away. The kingdom was even divided after his death. Thus men in their folly will want to try out some other alternatives for peace, quietness and assurances but they end in misery.

When God grant quietness, no one can cause them trouble. **For we are told: When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? and when he hideth his face, who then can behold him? whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only: That the hypocrite reign not, lest the people be ensnared. (Job 34:29&30)** Peace, quietness and assurance do not come with paying large sum of money modern men called insurance premium. In fact, many times, the poor have quietness more often than the rich. **Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife. (Proverb 15:16&17; 16:8; 17:1)** King Solomon also said: **Better is an**

handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit. (Ecclesiastes 4:6) This is coming from the horse's mouth from the richest man ever lived. Being rich does not mean one has peace, quietness and assurance. Actually, one cannot buy peace, quietness and assurance. Can one's wealth save him from a sinking Titanic? Would one exchange peace and quietness over some windfall which may lead him to destruction? Would one succumb so easily and readily by the deceitfulness of riches and pierce himself through with many sorrows? Those who preached the prosperity gospel and always justify worldly gain thinking that this is godliness are badly mistaken.

Lusting after covetousness is nothing new. **For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not. (Isaiah 30:15)** The children of Israel were covetous just like many Christians. They had forsaken the Law of Moses and they oppressed one another over earthly gains. The Pharisees during the days of Christ were covetous too. They were unhappy when exposed and they derided the Lord: **And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. (Luke 16:14)** So peace, quietness and assurance were taken away from them. The Lord warned the children of Israel years ago if they rebel what would happen to them. **And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see. (Deuteronomy 28:66&67)** How sad to live in this miserable and tormented state! It does not pay to sin and rebel against God.

Notwithstanding, the Lord also promises assurance. **And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. (Exodus 15:26)** The children of Israel were supposed to do that which was right in God's sight. They were promised God's protection if they did that which was right in God's sight and kept God's commandment. After all, they witnessed what happened to the Egyptian for hardening against Almighty God. Who in the right mind would want to partake what

the Egyptian had gone through? Keeping God's commandments is work of righteousness if they want blessings and assurance. So Moses told the children of Israel. **And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us. (Deuteronomy 6:25)** Moses claimed that if they had kept God's commandment, it would be considered their righteousness. So Christians who insist that men cannot do work of righteousness are either not reading their Bible or are just plain obstinate and refuse accept what God revealed about His inspired words.

Men can do work of righteousness though they do not merit salvation. Israel was specifically told of the requirement to live in the land flowing with milk and honey. But they failed to keep the commandments of God to do work of righteousness. As a result, trouble came according to God's words. **Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee. (Deuteronomy 28:60)** So during Isaiah's time, the way to obtain peace, quietness and assurance was given in Isaiah 32:17: **And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.** This was the way God dealt with His people in the Old Testament. It concerns the Law given to the Jews what God expected of them in order to protect them and prosper them living in the land promised to their forefathers. This work of righteousness is not talking about obtaining eternal life through such works alone. The children of Israel must keep the Law by faith trusting God to keep His promises to bless, protect and provide for them. Are Christians exempted from doing work of righteousness in the New Testament?

Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. (John 6:28&29) They asked what must a man do to in order to do the works of God. It is not usual for the Jews to ask such a question. Jehovah God had in the past given them laws to keep concerning what they must do and what they must not do. The children of Israel had been burdening themselves with their doings all those years and they had misplaced faith on what they did apart from their God. They could keep to the letter of the Law but not the spirit of the Law. They used the Law to beat anyone who did not keep the Law the way they kept the Law and they became self-righteous. So they were preoccupied with doing but what they did but this was not exactly what God had in mind concerning the true work of righteousness. It was so scandalous that a rebuke of the highest order was required. **Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (Matthew 23:23)** What they did was such an affront to the Lord Jesus Christ that the Pharisees were rebuked with such vehemence that the ears would tinkle when such words of condemnation were heard.

So now for a while, the Lord told them to stop some of their doing. They had been doing a lot in the past but were leading them nowhere. They were so work-centered that they thought their works would be the end of all things. They had too much faith on their works but not much faith in trusting God Who told them He would have mercy on whom He would have mercy. They thought they had been doing work of righteousness all these while. The Lord told them that the work of God is to believe Him whom God sent. What fallen men can do and must do is to believe in Christ. The Lord did not tell them God will grant them the faith to believe because they were the elect of God. Christ told them to believe. This is the work of God. This is the work of righteousness and peace, quietness and assurance would come to that man when he believes Christ is the Son of God. Why is that so? **Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)** This man is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

God the Father ordained this man Christ Jesus, the elect of God to die for sinners. God had given assurance unto all man that Christ was raised

from the dead. It is ridiculous to suggest that God does not give fallen men a chance to come to the saving knowledge of Christ. This assurance concerning the judgment to come has been given to all men. Therefore according to Scriptures, this assurance has been given to all men and not some men like some false teachers would want us to believe in God limiting the atonement of Christ to God's elect. Unfortunately for fallen men, they just do not believe God at His words. They reject God's revelation about Himself and so they live in darkness. On judgment day, there will be no excuses. **For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. (1 Thessalonians 1:5)** No one can claim innocence in the light of God's Holy words. No one can claim that they did not know God's workings and dealings with fallen men. There will be no alibi for their rebellion against the light given to them to know this wonderful and marvelous Saviour who will one day judge the world in righteousness.

So the gospel came with much assurance. This assurance is so much more superior over the assurances of men and their promises documented on pieces of paper. Therefore, what is the work of righteousness one must do to acquire this assurance? The apostle Paul exhorts: **Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:22)** The work of righteousness is to draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Without drawing near to the Lord Jesus Christ there will be no assurances of peace and quietness. If we draw near, we will hear God's promises of assurance. **Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD. (Isaiah 41:10; 54:17)** What about during times of troubles and tribulations?

I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like

manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation. (Isaiah 46:13; 51:6-8) Even during the departure of heavens and earth, there will be peace, quietness and assurance for the people of God. Are not these promises and assurances from God good enough? So can Christians really do work of righteousness?

The Lord Jesus Christ declared: **Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Matthew 5:6)** So men not only can do work of righteousness, they can even hunger after righteousness. The promise is that they shall be filled if they hunger after righteousness. They will be satisfied and contented with being fed by the righteousness from God. Peace, quietness and assurance will then come naturally if they hunger after righteousness. Some might wonder how this might be achieved? The Lord explained: **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)** This will be possible when a child of God believes God's words and His promises and then acts upon what God said. The work of righteousness is to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness first. All other things pertaining to this life will be added unto him. It does not mean one will be rich but he will have no lack. Is not it better to have peace, quietness and assurance than to be rich and wise in our own conceits? Is not it better to be accepted by God and be accepted in the Beloved than to be accepted by this fallen world? For we are told: **But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. (Acts 10:35)**

Men can indeed do work of righteousness in every nation. God will accept that man and grant him peace, quietness and assurance forever. God will send the gospel along his pathway to obtain salvation. Why? **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17)** The Lord will reveal the righteousness of God to this man who works righteousness. This righteousness is reveal from faith to faith. Everyone born under the sun has a chance if he exercises faith. God does not deliberately bypass anyone to reprobate him to hell. But will sinners have faith in God just like Cornelius,

a Gentile who got saved in Acts 10? Cornelius was full of good works and God even sent an angel to tell him that Peter would come to tell him what he must do to obtain eternal life in Acts 10. God is not unrighteous to condemn anyone to hell if he sincerely seeks after Him. This righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. Every sinner has this capability to exercise faith if he wants to get to know this merciful, gracious and loving God. The Scriptures show that God is very near fallen men and no one is disadvantaged to the point that God cannot hear him: **And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: (Acts 17:26&27)** Indeed the fallen sons of Adam can feel after God and find Him because God is very near His creatures. To suggest otherwise is to deny the Scriptures and attribute unrighteousness to God for forsaking His creatures.

What then is righteousness that God will accept? **But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. (Romans 3:21,22,26)**

God will send the gospel to that man and will justify him based on his faith who believes in Jesus. It is not God granting him the faith to believe in Jesus. It is foolish to take away man's free will and responsibility to respond and then charge God for sending him to hell because he is incapable of responding because he is totally depraved.

Is not Abraham depraved? **For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. (Romans 4:3, 5, 6-8) Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. (Galatians 3:6)**

Did God grant Abraham the faith to believe or Abraham simply believed? Was righteousness imputed to Abraham because he believed God or because God granted him the faith to believe and then also imputed to him righteousness? Does it make sense? Abraham is also a depraved son of Adam. This however, did not hinder him from believing in God and God imputed to him righteousness because of his faith in God's words and promises. So men can do work of righteousness even just by believing God at His words by putting their trust in the only Begotten Son of God. After a sinner believes in Christ, he is a new creature in Christ and he becomes a servant of righteousness. **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (Romans 6:18)**

A man can become a servant of righteousness and do work of righteousness. He cannot hide behind some depraved ideas that he is totally depraved and this deprived him of doing work of righteousness. This is just an excuse to justify the flesh and continue in work of unrighteousness. **For**

Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10:4) In this age, the work of righteousness a man must do is to believe in Christ. He cannot hope to justify himself when he fails to believe in Christ. A man must do something if he wants peace. **But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God. (Romans 2:10&11)**

A Jew under the Law must keep the Law if he wants to have peace, quietness and assurance. This promise of glory, honour and peace is given to every man that worketh good. Hence faith without work is dead. A sinner under the Age of Grace where Christ had already come to fulfill the Law must exercise faith to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If he believes in Christ and accepts Him as his personal Lord and Saviour, peace, quietness and assurance would be his forever. Because of his faith in Christ, he is justified by faith before God. **Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. (Romans 5:1&2)**

In our time, a sinner is justified by faith in Christ. This is the starting point of his work of righteousness just like Abraham who believed God and it was counted righteousness to him. After a sinner is saved, as a Christian, if he wants to enjoy peace, quietness and assurance, he must be spiritually minded according to Romans 8:6: **For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** If he is spiritually minded, the full assurance of this hope is given to him. The assurance of eternal acceptance is granted him the moment he believes in Christ. He will have full assurance of the hope before him and will know that he is now a son of God. A Christian who is not spiritually minded will not live this earthly life in peace, quietness and assurance though he is now a child of God. Like the children of Israel, peace, quietness and assurance from God for a Christian is conditional upon his obedience to God's words to be spiritually minded. If a child of God lives in rebellion, he will learn it the hard way like the Israelites in the past that God's promise of peace, quietness and assurance could be taken away.

Notwithstanding, a child of God may have to go through trials of tribulations ordained of God to mould him and strengthen him to be a vessel of honour fit for the master's use. During such times of testing, it may seem

like peace, quietness and assurance are missing. This is actually not the case. True peace, quietness and assurance from God are independent of earthly troubles. Why is that so? The answer is found in the following Scriptures.

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-39)

Therefore, the effect of righteousness which is quietness and assurance forever for the child of God is that nothing in this world or things to come can separate him from the love of Christ. Is not this peace, quietness and assurance much better than some false and broken promises from fallen men? Why seek after the broken cisterns in this world for peace, quietness and assurance by trusting in the arms of flesh? True peace, quietness and assurance are available according to the words of the living God. It is up to the child of God to perform work of righteousness to acquire this peace, quietness and assurance which only God can provide.

What are the practical works of righteousness a Christian can do? There are many things a child of God can do if he wishes to enjoy true peace, quietness and assurance from God. The Scriptures are full of instructions and admonitions for a child of God to observe if he wants to be spiritually well and healthy in his walk with the Lord. Nonetheless, there are three main areas a child of God can follow if he wants to secure peace, quietness and assurance in this life.

Making Peace and Be Peaceable

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. (Romans 14:19)

If a Christians is enjoying peace, quietness and assurance, he will seek to follow after the things which make for peace and things that may edify another. This is crucial because a peaceable man is a man who treasures peace. He will not seek to cause division and offences and harm the Body of Christ. He is a peaceable man and not a quarrelsome man. He is not a mischievous man out to cause trouble. He will seek to edify others and not to corrupt others to fall into misery like himself wallowing in the flesh. According to James, we are told: **And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (James 3:18)** Peace-loving Christians will seek peace among others. They will not go out of the way to create strife. Such Christians will obey the commandment of the apostle Paul: **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)** This requires much effort. Such peace-making endeavours will please the Lord and the Lord will surely grant this man peace, quietness and assurance. The Lord Jesus Christ also declared: **Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. (Matthew 5:9)** True born again children of God will learn to do well by being peaceable and keeping the peace among the brethren. It is not in the nature of peace loving Christians to create strifes and troubles to harm the Body of Christ. Such Christians are indeed blessed children of God who treasure peace and are actively engaged in peace-making endeavours to all those around them.

Be Followers of the Apostle Paul

Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (Philippians 4:9)

A Child of God can follow the manner of life of Paul to obtain peace. He must learn from the experience of Paul and follow Paul even as he followed Christ. He must do what Paul did and the peace of God shall be with him. The apostle Paul was a man full of faith and zeal in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians should do likewise to perform work of righteousness. This work of righteousness in serving the Lord is called the work of faith and labour of love according to 1 Thessalonians 1:3&4: **Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.** The apostle Paul remembered their work of faith and labour of love. These Christians in Thessalonica were not hearers of the word but doers. They were doing work of righteousness in obedience to Christ. To receive this peace of God after salvation, no Christian is exempted from doing something. If a child of God does what the apostle did, the promise of the peace of God shall be with him. It is imperative that Christians study the manner of life of Paul and emulate his example in serving the Lord Jesus Christ sincerely and faithfully. Paul also testified his manner of life to Timothy and exhorted him to follow him. **But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. (2 Timothy 3:10-12)**

It may seem paradoxical that the peace of God also brings persecutions and afflictions. However, in the midst of the storm of living a godly life, the peace of God is the mainstay for the child of God. The child of God cannot be moved when he realizes that nothing in this world, whether in life or in death, can separate him from the love of Christ (Romans 8:31-39). This is the very essence of the peace of God that Paul told the Christians in Philippi that fallen men can never hope to understand: **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)** Hence, there are many

lessons to be learned from Paul's doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions and afflictions that Paul told Timothy. As such, this is the practical work of righteousness a child of God would do well to learn and to follow the example of the apostle Paul.

Consider the Poor

(As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;) (2 Corinthians 9:9&10)

Giving to the poor, especially to the saints in need is a work of righteousness. Hording to oneself to indulge in the flesh will only reap vanity. We bring nothing into this world and we shall certainly bring nothing out of this world. The resource a child of God has at his disposal is a test of his stewardship before God. He can utilize these temporal blessings he has to be a blessing to others or he can squander them away like the prodigal son. If he is a good steward of God's blessings bestowed upon him, this is his work of righteousness which will remain forever. He could be forward looking by investing into the eternal future or he could be short-sighted pandering after the flesh for immediate gratification. If he is such a fool, he will sacrifice the permanence on the altar of the immediate. He will forge God's temporal blessings on the anvil of self-indulgence. He has no work of righteousness that will remain forever in the world to come. How sad to return evil for good to the gracious Lord who saves him from hell fire and yet he lives a selfish life bringing no good fruits to the Saviour. The deceitfulness of riches has blinded his spiritual eyes and he does not even realize that he will be piercing himself through with many sorrows that will not only affect him but all those around him.

The psalmist also understands such eternal truths of considering the poor with a promise of God's protection and provision for those who are true practitioners of charity. **Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed**

in his sickness. (Psalms 41:1-3) Those who consider the poor are blessed men indeed. The promise of deliverance is his to keep. He is such a blessed man that peace shall no doubt be his portion and assurance his lot. This blessed man even has the privilege of the Lord, the Great Physician, attending upon him during his time of sickness. What insurance policy would offer such benefits and how much is the premium one could afford to pay for such divine service? So this is the work of righteousness a child of God can easily do. This is the spiritual insurance premium to be paid if a child of God wants peace, quietness and assurance. The promised blessing is sure and such policy of assurance will never lapse. Solomon also declared: **The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. (Proverbs 11:25)** Not only God will bless those who consider the poor with protection, provision and peace, those who practice charity will also be blessed by their own labour of love and work of faith trusting in God to be charitable. If a Christian believes God's promise that he that watereth shall be watered also himself, he will definitely consider the poor.

Christians should consider the poor if they want God's protection, mercy and peace. Christians do not have to wait for a Tsunami to come and then join the lost world to help the afflicted and needy. There are many genuine Christians who need help. There is this pastor and his church members who lost their homes in Mexico. They are cut off from communication with most part of the world. Of course there are scams and scammers around. But how many people are keeping their money under their pillows often. They still invest and lose their savings. Christians should never be oblivious to the plight of the poorer brethren. If a child of God considers the poor, he is a practitioner of the golden rule. He is doing unto others what he would want others to do unto him. He is loving his neighbour as himself fulfilling the Law. The Lord always gives opportunities to invest in such premium of assurance. It is up to the child of God to take it up. The promise of blessing is assured, signed, sealed and delivered from the highest office in heaven. This work of righteousness will certainly bring peace, quietness and assurance forever. Who would not want to secure such policy of assurance from heaven?

Why Christians must do work of righteousness? **For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)** Christians must do work of righteousness precisely because he belongs to the kingdom of God. He is no longer of the world and he does not belong to the world. He has been bought with a price paid by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to ransom his sinful soul from hell. Since he belongs to the kingdom of God, all his earthly resources are secondary in nature. They are only there to serve a function, that is, to glorify God with all that he has. Because the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, the child of God should know that all the earthly temporal blessings are only given to him to manage for a while and that is all. As such, he should do work of righteousness with the resources at his disposal while living in parallel in this world and at the same time being a member of the kingdom of God. As a privileged member of the kingdom of God, his true estate is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. How he manages his earthly possessions will determine the level of his contentment and happiness in the kingdom of God.

Would any Christian with a sound mind want to depart from the kingdom of God wherein is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost? Would he trade such celestial joy and heavenly peace for some weak and beggarly elements this world can offer him? Christians belong to the kingdom of God and not of this world. The peace this world gives is a false peace and it does not come from the Prince of peace Himself. For the Lord tells us: **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. (John 16:33)** This was what the Lord Jesus Christ told His disciples. Whose peace are you seeking after? Would you seek the peace from Christ who had overcome the world? Or peace from this fallen world destined to be destroyed? The peace offers by this world is false. **For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:3)** The world gives them a false promise. The world promises them peace. Unfortunately, they have been scammed and they do not even realize it. This false peace will end in destruction. Many will buy such tribulations in disguise and end in misery. But the promise of God is sure: **Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Peter 3:13)** So Christians are looking for something that sinners in this world can never hope to see. They cannot see beyond this present sun and

they do not understand the promise of eternal life and bliss for those who obey God and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. So are you doing work of righteousness to secure true peace, quietness and assurance?

Terrorism is here to stay. SARS had come and now faded into the background. Bird flu is on its way which might be much worse. More crises are coming. Should Christians panic and live their lives in fear of uncertainty and trouble? If a child of God does work of righteousness, peace, quietness and assurance would be his to stay. Therefore, the exhortation for Christians who want to obtain peace, quietness and assurance is to do work of righteousness. God will definitely keep His promise to grant His children peace, quietness and assurance when they do work of righteousness. **Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. (Romans 15:13)** God will certainly fill those who do work of righteousness with all joy and peace to abound in hope. **And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)** This peace from God that passes all understanding is guaranteed to keep the hearts and minds of those who do work of righteousness. The Lord also promises to grant these saints peace always by all means: **Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)** Hence, we are told, **And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. (Isaiah 32:17)**

Tarry not. Start doing work of righteousness and may God's peace, quietness and assurance be yours from now and forever.

If you have been blessed with the reading of this book and you wish to contact the author, you may write to him at charles@kjb-asia.com.