

## **The God of Peace**

- 1. Fix Your Minds on the Excellent and Praiseworthy (8).**
- 2. Continually Practice *Godly Heritage* You Have Received (9a).**
- 3. God's Presence Will Be Our Reward (7).**

CONCLUSION: This passage provides us with two commands and a promise. First, we are to fix our minds on the excellent and praiseworthy. In all of life we are to discipline our thought life to concentrate on God's finger-prints in all of Creation. Second, we are to continually practice the godly heritage we have received. This includes habitually living out the apostolic witness to all whom God brings across our paths. The great promise of the gospel is that we will not only receive the blessings of peace, but God, Himself, who is our peace.

## **Exodus 33:1-3, 12-17**

The Lord said to Moses, “Depart; go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought up out of the land of Egypt, to the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, ‘To your offspring I will give it.’ I will send an angel before you, and ... Go up to a land flowing with milk and honey; *but I will not go up among you*, lest I consume you on the way, for you are a stiff-necked people.” When the people heard this disastrous word, they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments ... Moses said to the Lord, “See, you say to me, ‘Bring up this people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” And he said, “*My presence will go with you*, and I will give you rest.” And he said to him, “*If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here*. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?” And the Lord said to Moses, “This very thing that you have spoken *I will do*, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”

## **First John 1:1-4**

That which was from the beginning, which we have *heard*, which we have *seen with our eyes*, which we *looked upon* and have *touched with our hands*, concerning the word of life—the life was made manifest, and we have *seen* it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and *was made manifest to us*—that which we have *seen* and *heard* we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. *And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

## **Second Timothy 1:3-7**

I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. As I remember your tears, I long to see you, *that I may be filled with joy*. I am reminded of *your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice* and now, I am sure, *dwells in you as well*. For this reason *I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God*, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, *for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

## **Psalms 101:1-3**

I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will make music.  
I will *ponder* the way that is blameless. Oh when will you come to me?  
I will walk with integrity of heart within my house;