What a nice word peace is! It conjures up all kinds of thought and emotions, in our personal lives, in the church and in the world.

Jesus said “These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

One of the problems we have with peace is that we do not understand it. It is used in many different ways. I remember President Nixon promising “peace in our time.” When one looks at the world, there has never been world peace, and I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but there never will be. Jesus also said in, “Mark 13:7 “And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be not troubled: these things must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet.” (Also Matt. 24:7)

The peace of which Jesus speaks is inner peace. There are going to be disagreements, where there is no peace. There will also be wars between nations so no peace there.

While we must, because we live in this world, deal with world problems, personal problems and family problems, we can still have peace.

The real problem many have, even Christians, is that we think in terms of “here and now” and Jesus is talking about spirit and soul. We can have upsets in family and church and world, but if we are concentrating on the everlasting, we can have peace. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, “for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content.” (Phil 4:11) Another word for peace is contentment.

While we cannot change everything in this life to suit us, we can be content in that we have the promise we will go to a place where peace reigns.