

“The Peace of God”  
Romans 1:7  
(Preached at Trinity, November 26, 2006)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. We’ve been at Paul’s opening salutation to the Book of Romans. In these opening verses Paul gives us a lengthy description of himself and his calling.
  - A. In **Verse 1** Paul identifies himself as a servant, an apostle called by Jesus Christ, a man set apart unto the Gospel of God.
  - B. The next three verses describe this Gospel. The Book of Romans is a book that defines and outlines the Gospel.
  - C. We looked at the Lordship of Christ. **Verse 4** describes Him as Jesus Christ our Lord. Salvation is a transformation, a new creation. God gives us a disposition towards obedience. We recognize Christ’s dominion in every aspect of our life. There can be no salvation without Jesus being our Lord.
  - D. We’ve looked at grace and the obedience of faith.
  - E. We’ve looked at the call of God unto salvation and His wonderful covenantal love that promises to keep us until the end.
2. This morning we come to the end of Paul’s salutation to the Book of Romans in **Verse 7: Romans 1:7** – “Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - A. As we saw as we began the Book of Romans, in many ways Paul is following the format of ancient letters. Closing with “grace and peace” was not uncommon. Paul’s letters, however, were never merely formalities. His words were always chosen carefully. When Paul closes his salutation with “grace and peace” it was more of a blessing or benediction which carried with it Apostolic authority.
  - B. Paul has already used the word “grace” in **Verse 5 Romans 1:5** – “By whom we have received grace and apostleship”
    1. Grace will be a common theme throughout the Book of Romans. Paul uses the word 24 times.  
It is God free unmerited favor to sinners. All of salvation comes from grace—our calling, regeneration, adoption, justification, sanctification, strengthening, spiritual fruit—all of grace.
    2. But here Paul enjoins grace and peace because they are inseparable. In the OT the word of blessing was שְׁלוֹמִים but now it has been enjoined with grace. Grace is the source through which peace and every other blessing from God comes. God is the fountain of peace:  
“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
3. If you say the word peace you will get different ideas from different people. Some would describe peace as the absence of war or conflict. Others describe it as an inner tranquility or quietness of mind. The truth is there is no peace apart from Christ. In fact for the lost man God is against him – he can know no peace.  
**Isaiah 48:22** – “There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.”

4. What is peace from a Christian perspective? We are not interested in mere definitions but in the experience of peace. Do you know peace?

I. It is the harmony that comes from our reconciliation with God

**Romans 5:1** – "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

A. Human beings were created in harmony and fellowship with God

1. Adam had a true and proper reverence for God – he worshipped God in love and obedience.
2. Adam had the confidence that God was working for his good – that he was in a true and proper communion with God
  - a. God was the source of all his comfort and confidence
  - b. Adam knew the ultimate peace – the peace that comes from knowing God is on your side, that He is working on your behalf. Sin obliterated this peace

**Isaiah 59:2** – "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear."

B. The lost man is born into the worst of all conflicts – he is at war with God

1. Prior to salvation we are alienated from God and His blessings  
**Ephesians 4:17-19** – "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."
2. Instead of being at peace with God we are at a constant state of war  
**Psalms 2:1-3** – "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."  
\*\* The word for "rage" literally means "to be in tumult"
3. The natural mind is at enmity with God, the natural mind hates God, he wishes God did not exist.

C. When God saves us we are reconciled to Him

1. We are brought back into a right relationship with Him. God no longer looks upon us as an enemy. We are no longer under His wrath.
2. We are granted to come into His presence – to enter into His dwelling place
3. The redeemed man has found true peace
  - a. Peace is more than just the absence of hostility  
That is the classical Greek understanding.
  - b. For the Christian peace goes beyond this. Peace for us carries the Hebrew concept of Shalom – it means the presence of God's full and rich blessing

- B. The Christian has found rest for his soul. His conscience is at peace
1. Though our consciences are still troubled by sin, the Christian has peace in his conscience
  2. This comes by grace. We know it is well with our soul.  
Jesus has paid the price for our sin. We have an absolute confidence in the efficiency of the blood of Christ.  
"My sin – Oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't  
My sin not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Oh my soul."
  3. We are resolved that God will do what He said. All who trust in this sacrifice shall be saved.
- II. This peace is the liberty found in loving our neighbor
- A. The lost man is on a never-ending treadmill trying to get ahead of everyone else
1. He wants the place of preeminence recognition
  2. He wants the most wealth
  3. He is always concerned about what others think of him
- B. The believer has found true peace in love
- a. He is content in God's favor – if God honors Him it is enough  
**John 8:54** – "Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me"
  - b. He has found the peace in putting others before himself  
**Philippians 2:1-4** – "If *there be* therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, . . . *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. <sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."
  - c. There is true liberty here – true peace
- III. It is a confidence that God is in control of all things.
- A. We need to remember, All things are from the hand of God, He is working His purpose  
**Psalm 115:3** – "But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."  
**Isaiah 46:9-10** – "Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"
- B. We find great peace in knowing there is purpose in our suffering  
What is God's purpose in suffering? – God works all things for His own glory
1. For the lost suffering is only a foretaste of what is to come. It is a reminder of the consequence of sin
    - a. Every tear is just one of a flood that will flow for all of eternity where there will be constant weeping.
    - b. Every discomfort is just a foreshadow of the place where there will be gnashing of teeth.

2. For the Christian God has designed every trial for our good – Rom. 8:28
    - a. He brings affliction as a reminder of the sin in this world and our being saved from it.  
**Acts 14:22** – “Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”
    - b. He sends affliction to prove our faith genuine – 1 Peter 1:1-7
  3. God is drawing us ever nearer to Himself. He is conforming us more and more to the likeness of His Son. He is making us holy  
**Romans 8:29** – “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”
  4. God brings us through trials to prove Himself faithful. We learn to trust Him more and more.
- C. God’s people are at peace through every trial of life
1. Since God has ordained all things, no enemy, no hardship shall ever do more than God has ordained – and none is capable of separating us from God. We are indestructible until the time comes in God’s sovereign plan for us to die.  
**Isaiah 54:17** – “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.”
  2. We can pray with absolute confidence  
**Philippians 4:6-7** – “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
- IV. For the Christian our peace is a comfort and confidence and contentment as we rest in Christ
- A. The righteous find peace in His presence  
**Deuteronomy 31:6** – “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he *it is* that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”  
**Joshua 1:5** – “There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”
  - B. The righteous find peace in His power and strength  
**Psalms 18:2** – “The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.”  
**Psalms 28:7** – “The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”

- C. In Christ we don't have to continue in restlessness
1. The lost man is restless  
He worries, he is filled with fears and anxieties. He is disturbed, troubled. There is much unhappiness. The Christian has found peace.
  2. Paul commands,  
**Philippians 4:6-7** – “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
  3. Jesus commands,  
**Matthew 6:31-32** – “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? <sup>32</sup> (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”
- D. The righteous will find peace in death
- Isaiah 57:2** – “He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, *each one walking in his uprightness.*”
- Psalms 116:15** – “Precious in the sight of the LORD *is* the death of his saints.”
1. God's saints can find peace in death – to be present with our Lord
  2. We have a blessed hope – a wonderful peace

#### Conclusion:

1. Have you found this peace? It can only be known to the righteous.  
**Isaiah 48:22** – “*There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*”
2. Where can you find such a peace?  
**Romans 1:7** – “Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”  
This peace can only be found in Christ. Only Christ can bring lasting, eternal peace.
3. Without peace there can be no happiness, no joy. With peace there can be happiness in whatever else the situation might be. Look to Christ.