

Pt 15 Romans 5:1-11, Peace with God Through Christ

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Romans 5:1-11

- 1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- 4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
- 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
- 6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
- 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
- 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Verse 1 of our text here in Romans chapter 5 it says: **1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**

If a nation is battling other nations or countries, then that nation is at war. If a nation is not in battle with other nations or countries, then it is considered "peace time."

The same with man. You are either at war with God or you have peace with God.

Paul is explaining there is a way for a man to have peace with God and the only way that is possible is if we have been justified by faith through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Whether you realize it or not, before you were saved, you were at war with God. If you are not saved today, you are at war with God. And believe you me, God is the very last person you want to be at war with because if you are at war with God you are going to lose.

We've talked about this many times in the past but that word, "**justified**," that Paul uses here in verse 1 is a very important word. It means "**innocent**," or "**free**." The opposite of being justified is "**guilty**" or "**enslaved**." Those that are not saved, those that do not have faith in Christ are guilty before God and enslaved in their sins. This means that you cannot stand before God as righteous. If you cannot stand before God righteous then that means you cannot be justified therefore, you are going to die and you are going to go to hell to pay for those sins that you are guilty of. So, you need to have peace. You need to be justified. And you can be both those things but not outside of Christ. It is only through Him that you can have those things.

I don't care how big you think you are, how tough you think you are, how much you think you have everything figured out – if you are against God you are a loser.

I've known some people that have said such foolish things as: "well, I am an atheist or I am an agnostic, and people who believe there is a God are weak minded or brainwashed and I'm much more intelligent than those idiots that go to Church and read a Bible and pray and..."

Well, the Bible says in **Psalms 14:1a ...The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...** There are a lot of fools in this world today.

A great thing about this justification Paul talks about is that it is a one time thing. It isn't something that is done over time or something that has to be renewed from time to time. When a person places their faith in Christ they are immediately justified before God forever.

Without this justification, we cannot have **peace with God**. Peace is one of the main themes of the New Testament. You will find that word used 111 times in the NT and 51 of those times is from the writings of the Apostle Paul. A man who once was hell bound and hell bent on ridding the world of Christians, knew exactly how important it was to have peace with God. He lived the first part of his life in war with God. But, it wasn't until he was confronted by the Lord himself on the Road to Damascus, that he found peace. Paul was justified when the Lord saved him and he received that Peace that passes all understanding.

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Did you notice that word "access"? I don't think I have to tell you what that word means. We all understand what having access to something or someone means. It means you are able to have "admission."

If you want to stand before the President of the United States you have to be cleared for access. Not everyone can gain such access. For me to be able to walk into the Whitehouse and meet with the President I would have to go through all kinds of legal processes, a background check, a security clearance, and I would have to have armed escorts to even come in his presence.

If you go to a concert of one of these so-called music stars and you want access to the backstage (I don't know why you would ever want that but anyway..) to be granted access to the backstage you have to have a special ticket – a backstage pass.

But, to have access to God all that is required of me is to have faith in Jesus Christ. No background check, not security clearance and no backstage pass needed – Jesus is my way in.

It says "**we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand**."

The Bible says in **Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Have you ever noticed how many times the words faith and grace are used together in the Bible? They go hand in hand. **Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**

It says in the last part of verse 2, **and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

The word **hope** is another important word in the Christian faith. It doesn't mean hope as in **wishful thinking**, it means "**something that is certain or assured, yet not realized**." It is certain that one day we will share in the glory of God. I cannot even imagine what all that entails. The glory of God is something that I don't think any of us can even comprehend in our earthly way of thinking, but one day when we have the mind of Christ, we will understand it.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

This is a scary verse. We all want patience but none of us want it the way the Bible says it comes – through tribulation. We have no idea what it means to face tribulations because of our faith in Christ.

We think we have really had to face persecution just because somebody made fun of us for believing in Jesus. We think we've really faced tribulations because someone

rejected a Gospel tract or refused to let us witness to them. We have no idea what some of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ have had to face because of their faith. Believers in places like North Korea (the most dangerous place on earth for Christians) or Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, or Pakistan – all those are the top 5 most dangerous places to be a believer in Christ.

Christians in those places are arrested, beaten, tortured, mutilated, set on fire, beheaded – simply because they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. None of us want to face such things but the Bible says that Tribulation will come to those who believe. Jesus says in **Matthew 5:10-12** *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

He said in **John 15:18-20** *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

Peter says in **1 Peter 4:12-14** *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

Paul writes in **2 Timothy 3:12** *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

So you still want patience??? Listen, we do not have it in us to endure such tribulation but Jesus does. It is only through our faith in Him that we can endure such things. I don't know what is going to become of us here in the United States in the days, weeks, and years to come. I do know that we are turning into a socialist ungodly society.

Look how easy most Christians have allowed a virus to keep them out of church. It's only been about a year since Churches started shutting their doors and people stopped going because they were "scared" of catching a virus and in a short year's time experts say that 1 in 5 churches have permanently closed because people have stopped going and stopped supporting their churches.

Just imagine the state of the Church if we were facing even a fraction of the kind of persecution that Christians are facing in other parts of the world.

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Here Paul lists even more benefits of placing your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Already we have seen a person gets Justified, finds Peace, gains Access to God, and here: Patience, Experience, and Hope.

Living for the Lord has many benefits. Over time we are proven and refined. Just as the Apostle Peter says in **1 Peter 1:6-7** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

When you become a Christian you have hope. Just as we already said, that's not wishful thinking, it is something certain and assured.

Paul writing to Titus says in **Titus 2:13** *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;* The blessed hope is the object of desire of every single Christian. It is what the Lord is preparing us for. It is our expectation which will come to reality one of these days.

Paul says in **2 Corinthians 5:6-8** *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Here Paul is referring to the natural man without Christ. A man without Christ is a man without strength – the strength to resist sin, helpless in their lost condition. Unable to save themselves. But Christ died for those without strength, also called "ungodly."

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

I've always loved these verses. They bring me great comfort in knowing that Christ died for me while I was in my sins. I was not required to clean up, straighten up, prove myself, do a 7-step program, kiss the Pope, or anything else – while I was in the middle of my sinning, Christ died for me. As bad as I was, it did not change His mind. No one else would have done that. Just as our text says; some would die for a righteous man, some would die for a good man – but no one would die for a filthy, rotten, dirty sinner in the very act of his sins – except the Lord Jesus Christ.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Paul continues adding to the list of benefits. Not only are we justified by having faith in Christ but we are "saved from wrath through him." What wrath did we need saved from? The wrath of God. Yes, the God of love is also a God of wrath.

Romans 1:18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

Ephesians 5:6 *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.*

Colossians 3:5-6 *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. 11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

And, there it is – "when we were enemies." Enemies of who? Of God. You must have peace with God or face His wrath.