

## **Romans 5: 1-2**

This last week I have been asking myself how I can do this text justice. I have concluded that I can't. The truth in these verses is so profound and so glorious and so rich that the best I can do is scrape the surface in the hopes that we will all claim this treasure chest of blessing for ourselves both in our minds and in our hearts.

The more I studied this text the longer the teaching material got. It got so large I broke it in half in hopes that none of it would get glossed over. In doing so I hope I haven't cut it too short.

These first 11 verses will give us a quick overview of those things that we have been given as a result of Christ's work for us. When you feel you have little to rejoice about, read this text.

Verse 1- We have peace with God

Verse 2- We have access to Grace

Verse 2- We have hope

Verse 3- We now can glory in tribulations

Verse 5- We have love poured out in our hearts

Verse 9- We have been justified by Christ's blood

Verse 9- We have the promise of being saved from wrath

Verse 10- We have been reconciled to God

Verse 10- We shall be saved by Christ's life

Verse 11- We have received reconciliation

Now let's look at verse 1.

**<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

We learned in chapter 4 a great deal about **justification by faith**. We learned that Abraham, maybe considered the greatest of the patriarchs, was made just, not by fleshly works but by faith. He believed and it was credited to him as righteousness. So when Paul puts a therefore here, he has great reason to. So

having been justified, and that justification received by faith, there is a wonderful result. We now have **peace with God**.

Peace- This word for peace is referring to positional peace rather than experiential peace. It is more like saying we have peace with Russia than saying I have a peaceful easy feeling. It is the bringing of two parties together position-ally.

Remember that the book of Romans began with the revelation of God's wrath. Men are by nature at enmity with God- the very opposite of peace. But because of the justification that we receive, because Christ's righteousness counts for us and works in us, we now, who were enemies of God are at peace with God. We humans, with a record of sin 10 miles long, sin that God hates with a passion, are miraculously made at peace with God. We receive forgiveness of sin in a perfect legal pronouncement in justice. The penalty deserved for sin was paid by Christ, so we who are guilty of sin can be declared innocent. Our guilt was imputed to Christ. Christ's righteousness was imputed to us.

So we have peace with God. The war between believers and God is over. The rebels' hearts have been changed. The payment for sin has been paid. The just penalty has been dealt to the sins of believers. That relationship which we could never gain has been given to us who believe.

There have been countless efforts to gain world peace. Mankind longs for it and it seems so senseless that we cannot reach it. We see program after program to bring about peace in **communities**. **We see even** more to bring about peace in our homes. But these are all misplaced efforts. What every human really needs is peace with his Creator. With that peace all other peace will fall into place. Every believer has this wonderful state of peace with God. Jesus said this right before they were to abandon Him and run for their lives:

John 16:3 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me **you may have peace**. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, **I have overcome the world.**" Interestingly enough our text in Romans will speak of both peace and tribulation.

And how is it that we have peace? **It is through our Lord Jesus Christ.** Note that those who are justified by faith have a **Lord**, an absolute commander.

Lord- koo' ree os

he to whom a person or thing belongs, master, lord; the possessor and disposer of a thing  
a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master

While it is true we have a **Savior**, Jesus Christ. It is also true that we have a **Lord** Jesus Christ. We truly are bought with a price. We are not our own. A believer's time is not their own, their money is not their own, their possessions are not their own. If we are at peace with God, we are at peace through the work of a Lord, a possessor, an owner, a sovereign.

**<sup>2</sup>through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

It is also through this Lord that we have access by faith into grace.

Access- the act of bringing to, a moving to

I saw a film once of Johnny Cash listening to an unknown artist. The artist hoped to gain access to the recording executives through Johnny Cash. That is the proper use of the word. Christ has given us access to God's grace by faith. Christ is the one with access to God and He has given it to us through Him.

Religion- in one way of looking at it, is man's attempt at gaining access to God. Every culture ever discovered included some form of religion, some attempt to be favored by the supernatural.

In the Bible we find a theme of access to God from the first pages. Maybe that is part of the reason that Paul will go from our text and launch into a discourse about Adam and Christ.

I wanted to share something with you from Mr. Barnhouse's study. In the beginning mankind had access to God. God came

down and talked with Adam and Eve. They were created with fellowship, with access. But they sinned. Access was removed. God, probably Christ, pursued Adam at this point. He reached out to man. Adam probably would have been relieved temporarily if Christ had not sought him out, but Christ did. And at this point access to God included wearing the garments from the blood of sacrificed sheep. I think it likely that Adam and Eve were told something about the importance of a blood sacrifice for sin, like Bill Templeton proposed. After Adam and Eve, Cain refuses to shed blood with his offering but Abel does it properly. Abel sacrifices one lamb for his sins. One lamb for one man. Then the law teaches in Exodus 12 that at the Passover a lamb is to be killed for the benefit of one family. The blood on the doorposts would save the family from God's wrath. Then in Lev 16 Yom Kippur is instituted where there is a lamb shed for the whole country. Then John the Baptist announces Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away sin worldwide. I quote Mr Barnhouse here- A lamb for one man, a lamb for a family, a lamb for a nation and a lamb for the world. That is the history of access to God.

Here are several verses about Access to God:

1. We have **access** to God through **faith in Christ**

Eph 3: <sup>11</sup>according to the eternal purpose which God accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and **access** with confidence through faith in Him.

2. We have **access** to God through Christ by one **Spirit**

Eph 2: <sup>17</sup>And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through Him (Christ) we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

3. We have **access** to **grace** through **faith in Christ** Romans 5:2

This verse answers a question that I had to grapple with. This is the question: Since God is Sovereign and since God must provide us the grace to obey Him, if we do not obey Him, is it because He failed to provide us with the grace to do so? The idea

that we must wait for God's grace to be provided before a believer obeys could allow a sincere believer to wallow in sin while waiting for God to do something about it. And the worst part is, the believer's sin, in this framework of thinking, would be God's fault.

Scriptures, as I read them, reveal a God who is quick to provide grace. Our God is a God who is rich in grace and believers are swimming in an ocean of it. But in many cases the grace must be **accessed** by faith. The problem is not with a God who will not **provide** grace. The problem often is with God's followers that will not **exercise faith** to **access** the grace. We simply refuse to believe what God has said about the grace we are in when we are in Christ. And we don't count on God to supply whatever it is we need as we take the step of obeying Him.

Scripture says that believers receive an **abundance** of grace. Rom 5:20 says Where sin abounds, grace abounds **more**.

II Cor 12:9 Paul is told "My grace is **sufficient** for you for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

Eph 4:7 tells us about the spiritual gifts of grace that were given to the church.

II Tim 2:1 Timothy is told to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

Technically I am not aware of anywhere in scripture where someone was told to ask for **more** grace from God. We certainly need his grace. But from what I read, God's grace is available to those who by faith access it, who assume it, who expect it in a dependent relationship with Christ.

We do, according to Heb 4, come boldly to the **throne of grace** that we may **obtain** mercy but we **FIND** grace to help in the time of need. Why don't we obtain grace? I think because there is always an abundant supply with God... always more than we need.

James 4:6 is the closest thing I can find to a verse that implies a need for more grace. It says that God gives more grace. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Yet the next

thing it says is to submit to God and resist the devil. One might expect that the instruction would be to wait for God's grace since God will give it. But from what I read it looks more like we should assume God will give the necessary grace if we will simply believe Him and trust Him.

In II Peter 3:17 We are to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. Here we grow in the grace, but it doesn't look like the grace grows. We grow in IT.

And we are told that we are never to be those who turn the grace of God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Check this out for yourself. I in no way want to undermine our need for grace. We need it with every breath. But my point is that God liberally supplies it. We have access into this very state of Grace through Christ who died for us.

So back to our verse 2- **We have access by faith into this grace and this is the grace in which we stand.**

**To Stand**- to cause or make to stand, to place, put, set to make firm, fix establish  
to cause a person or a thing to keep his or its place  
to stand, be kept intact (of family, a kingdom),

The word for stand is used in the Greek much like we use it in English. So we stand strong, solid, established and fixed in Grace

It is this grace that supports us in our position. We stand in a position of peace with God, but we only stand in it because of Grace. It is **always** about what God did for us that we could never deserve. It is **never** about something we have earned and **do** deserve. If we stand, we stand in grace. We cannot stand in merit, achievement, accomplishment, our own wisdom, our own means. Grace is our only true alternative. And if we stand, we stand in grace.

**and rejoice in hope of the glory of God**- So we **stand** in **grace** and we **rejoice** in **hope**-

We **rejoice** in the **present** in **hope** for the **future**-

The word for rejoice in this verse is the same word that is used for Boast in Romans 2:17.

to glory (whether with reason or without) on account of a thing or in a thing

In Romans 2:17 the Jewish person is boasting in the law. He is saying that He has the law and can be saved by the law. He is rejoicing in the law. He is claiming glory on account of the law. But he is in error.

Believers, on the other hand, are bragging about God with reason regarding what God will do. They are glorying in the looking forward to what God will accomplish for His own glory.

We as believers have such solid reason to rejoice. Are you finding this reason to rejoice in your life? It is solid. It is true. And it has been revealed to us by God who cannot lie. Oh that our hearts would be as quick to rejoice as they are to doubt, to suspect, to complain, to despair. We have more reason to rejoice.

So we rejoice- In Hope

**Hope** which is the earnest and enthusiastic looking **forward** to something we are certain will happen. In this case we are looking forward to the glory of God. This word for Glory is the word Doxa. This is the kingly majesty which belongs to God as supreme ruler, majesty in the sense of the absolute perfection of the deity. This hope covers everything in our future.

We have this hope **in this present life**. No matter what happens to us, we have the promises of God that He will not fail us. We look forward to **His** provisions for us in this life. We look forward to what God will accomplish for His Glory in our current settings. We realize we are strangers and aliens and we are just passing through. So we rejoice, in hope.

We have this hope **regarding death** or **the end of this life as we know it**. We know that Christ's work is 100% effective and that based upon His work all believers will enter eternity with Christ, based on His merit. Death has lost its sting. The grave has lost its victory.

We have this hope regarding **Eternity in glory**. We will be glorified and Christ will be glorified. We look forward to the day

when everyone will see God's glory revealed. Every knee will bow on that day. Everyone will know who God is and that he deserves all glory. God will silence every dissenting voice and will display His power and majesty. Then He will be worshipped by his children forever and ever in a sinless environment by those who love God and fully appreciate what He has done for them. They know they are sharing this eternity by grace and will be forever grateful for what the Lamb of God has done.

**we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

I have a question for us this morning. What would look different in our lives if we were to act like we really believe this?

Christ has made the connections between us and God. We are now hooked up with God through grace. It is a rock solid stance that is as certain as God's promises because it is of Grace- God's making and not our flesh's performance.

And we have every reason to brag about God and what God is doing and what He has planned for us from now to eternity.

If someone would interview those closest to us what would they hear? Have we been bragging about God

and what God is doing

or God has promised to do for us or for Himself through us?

Are we quick to put our lives into the blessed perspective of people who

have peace with God

have access to Grace

have hope

can glory in tribulations

have love poured out in our hearts

have been justified by Christ's blood

have the promise of being saved from wrath

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have received reconciliation

That is us! That is truly what Christ has accomplished! No one on earth has a truer and greater reason to rejoice than a believer.

Based on what Romans tells us, let us determine to obey the instruction this week that Paul gave to the Philipians:

Phi 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

