

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • TV229A

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1984
By
HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
MAY 20TH, 2011

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

Romans 5:1

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Let’s open our Bible to the **Book of Romans**. I will be speaking from **Romans 5:1**. My subject today is: **“PEACE WITH GOD.”**

In **Romans Chapter 5:1**, the Apostle Paul said; *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Many people talk about having peace with God. Many people have claimed for years to have peace with God. I hear this frequently when they talk about someone on his dying bed, they say; “He made his peace with God.”

My friends, throughout the Scriptures, true peace with God is always a blessing that comes to men only in, by and through the Lord Jesus Christ and because of a relationship with Him. He is the *“Prince of Peace.”*

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Try to remember that; no matter how many people claim to have peace and talk about peace with God. They will even talk about making peace with God. True peace with God according to the Word of God is always and only in, through and by the Lord Jesus Christ and through a relationship with Him.

Listen to these Scriptures:

When the angels announced His birth to the shepherds, they said; *“we bring you good tidings of great joy for unto you is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord; glory to God in the highest and on earth peace.”*

This is because of the birth of Jesus Christ. That peace is inseparably connected with the Lord Jesus Christ. They said, *“Therefore, because we announced the birth of the Saviour, we also say; “glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace, goodwill, toward men.”*

Our Lord Jesus Christ said this; *“Peace be unto you; my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*

Paul, in **Colossians 1:20** said this; *“And having made peace through the blood of His cross.”* That is so important. Peace with God can only be ours through a relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the one who brings peace. He is the *“Prince of Peace.”* He is the King of peace.

Let me make about seven statements and you listen to them and evaluate them. Apply them to your own heart. Will you listen to these statements?

First of all: If you claim to have peace with God apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it is a false peace.

I will tell you that emphatically; dogmatically, with all that I can muster up to get it across to you; if you claim peace with God apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, it has to be a false peace.

Secondly: If you claim peace with God and you are indifferent to the Gospel of Christ, indifferent to the ordinances of Christ, indifferent to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you are indifferent to the fellowship of the people of God; that too is a false peace.

Thirdly: If you claim peace with God through your own merit, through your own morality, apart from the righteousness of Christ; that too is a false peace.

Fourthly: If you claim peace with God apart from the death of Christ and the blood of Christ which cleanses us from sin and enables God to be just and justifier; that too is a false peace.

Fifthly: If you claim peace with God without constantly looking to the Lord Jesus Christ as your Mediator, as your Intercessor, as your Great High Priest; that too is a false peace.

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

My friend; I heard a preacher say one time, “the sinner who is coming to God needs a Mediator. But, once a man is a believer, he no longer needs a Mediator for he himself is a priest.”

This is half-truth. A man who knows Christ is a priest. The Scripture says, “*He hath made us kings and priests unto our God.*” Jesus Christ our Lord is the Great High Priest.

Without the Great High Priest and Mediator, even a believer’s prayers are not heard. Even a believer’s worship is a sinful approach unto God.

So; if you claim having peace with God apart from a constant look to the Lord Jesus Christ as your Mediator and as your Intercessor; that is a false peace.

If you claim to have peace with God that does not give you strength in time of trial and rest in daily life and a hope in the hour of death all based upon the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ; that is a false peace. A peace that does not comfort you in trouble is not worth having anyway.

My friends; there is nothing clearer in the Word of God than the fact that all of God’s blessings, benefits, grace and mercy to sinners, is in and through His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

So is God’s peace in Christ. God’s love, mercy, grace, and all the benefits of his redemption are in Christ.

Peace also is the fruit of the Spirit and is a gift of God. Peace is a benefit and a blessing of redemption.

Hold on to your chair a minute! I wouldn’t offend you but I must tell you the truth. Take a deep breath and listen to me; apart from Christ, we face an angry, un-reconciled, avenging God.

I’m trying to get across to you as simply and forcefully as I can that you can have no peace with God. I don’t care what we claim. The Devil may lull us to sleep in a false profession but you cannot have peace apart from the King of Peace.

You cannot have peace apart from Him who accomplished peace by the blood of His cross. You cannot have peace with God apart from that righteousness of Christ and blood of Christ, which justifies and sanctifies us and enables God to look upon us with favor.

We face an angry God, an un-reconciled God, an unfriendly God, and an avenging God. You listen to me and see if I don’t make good on that.

In **2nd Corinthians 5:18**, the Scripture says; “*All things are of God,*” all things. Is not peace of God? Is not peace a thing? “*All things are of God who hath reconciled us unto Himself by Jesus Christ.*”

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Listen to **2nd Corinthians 5:19**; *“God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.”* So; apart from Christ, God is un-reconciled. In Christ and through the Lord Jesus Christ God is reconciled. God is friendly and God loves us in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Apart from Christ He is un-reconciled; He is angry. In **2nd Corinthians 5:21** it says; *“For God hath made Christ to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Now; listen to **1st Timothy 2:5**; *“There is one God.”* Not too many people would argue with that would they, that there is one God? You couldn't have more than one God. There is one God.

Would you argue with this? There is one Mediator; there is one Intercessor; there is one Advocate. *“There is one Mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus.”*

The hymn writer put it this way:

**“My faith has found a resting place; (that is peace)
Not in device or creed,
I trust the ever living Christ
His wounds for me shall plead.**

**Enough for me that Jesus saves
This ends my fear and doubt; (that's peace)
A sinful soul I come to Him
He'll never cast me out.**

**The great Redeemer heals the sick
The lost He came to save,
For me His precious blood He shed
For me His life He gave.”**

That is peace, joy, rest, and that is comfort. We cease from our labors and enter into His rest. Whose rest, the Lord Jesus Christ?

Paul wrote in **Hebrews 12:2**; *“Let us run with patience the race which is set before us, looking unto Jesus.”* We are not looking unto our creeds. We are not looking to our preachers. We are not looking to our denominations. We are not looking to the law but looking to Jesus who is *“the author and finisher of our faith.”* We are looking to Christ. Let's run this whole race resting in Him, looking to Him and believing in Him.

I am going to give you six words which will describe for you how we are to look to Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, finding in Him all we need, especially peace with God.

Can you imagine what that means when it says, *“God is reconciled?”* It means the wrath is gone and the judgment is gone. Punishment and the curse of the law are gone. I am at peace with God.

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I can rest; I can find assurance and comfort. I can walk in happiness. I have no fear in the “*valley of the shadow of death.*” I have no fear when I leave this earth and my soul returns to God not in judgment but in mercy.

My body will go back to the dust from whence it came. I can rest in the deepest waters and in the heaviest trial. I can carry the greatest burden. I can have rest and have peace with God.

Here are six words that will help you; this is the way that we look to Christ. In looking to Him we find peace with God:

First of all: The word covenant; I look to Christ in the covenant, the everlasting covenant. It is the covenant of God’s grace.

I know that a lot of people, when you mention the word covenant, they kind of shy back and say; “He is going to get into some deep, theological, water, here.” Oh no; the word covenant is used in the Bible over 250, almost 300 times.

That everlasting covenant is simply saying this; God made a covenant with Abraham, a covenant with Israel, a covenant with Adam, a covenant with Noah and David.

This everlasting covenant is simply this; God the Father in eternity past made a covenant with us in Christ. The covenant was made with Christ on our behalf. He made that covenant with Christ and we were included in the covenant in Christ.

So, He made it with His Son. He called it the “*new covenant,*” because it was newly revealed. In that covenant He gave His Son a people. He chose them in Christ. He predestinated them to be like Christ. He purposed that they should be redeemed by Christ.

Our Lord tells us about this covenant in **John 6:37**; He said, “*All that My Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me; I will in no wise cast out. I came down from heaven not to do my will but the will of Him that sent me. And this is the will of him that sent me that of all which he hath given me, I will lose nothing but raise it up again at the last day.*”

Again, in **John 17**, He said; “*Father; glorify me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was. As Thou hast given me authority, power over all flesh, that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given me.*”

So, this is a covenant of grace. This is a covenant of promise. This is an everlasting covenant and the Lord Jesus Christ is called in Hebrews; “*the surety of that covenant.*” He is the guarantor; it will be accomplished because He guarantees it and He never fails.

Then, His blood is called in the **Book of Hebrews**; “*the blood of that everlasting covenant.*” The Scripture says, “*In Adam we die; in Christ we are made alive.*” By Adam’s sin we became sinners. By Christ’s righteousness and blood we became righteous.

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

In **Romans 5:19** the Scripture says; *“by the disobedience of one the many were made sinners. So be the obedience of one, (Christ) we were made righteous.”*

Do you know what the last words of David, King David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel, the son of Jesse, who ruled Israel so many years were? He was a great warrior, a great heart believer in Christ.

Do you know what his last words were before he died? These were his last words found in **2nd Samuel 23 verse 5**; *“although my house be not so with God, yet he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure. And this is all my salvation and all my desire.”*

So my friends, when we look to Christ to find peace, we look back beyond the cross. We look beyond the manger. We look beyond the tabernacle. We look beyond the promise of the seed of woman.

We look back into the eternity past because *“known unto God are all His works from the beginning.”*

We see in that everlasting covenant of mercy that it was made between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Before the world was ever created, Christ was the *“lamb slain before the foundation of the world.”*

Before the Book of Life was written and the names were recorded and given to Christ we see that they were chosen in Him and He assumed the responsibility of being their Surety.

Like Judah said to Jacob; *“I will bring him home or you will require it at my hands.”* The Lord Jesus said, *“I will bring them home. All that my Father giveth me, they will come to me and I will lose nothing.”* He will bring them home. I look to Christ. He shall not fail. He cannot fail.

The second word is incarnation. We look to Christ not only in the covenant but we look to Christ who became flesh.

You see, Christ as God can satisfy all that God requires because He is perfect. Christ as man can suffer all that the penalty of sin and the curse of the law demands.

So, only as the God-man can He both satisfy and suffer. In **Galatians 4:4** it says; *“In the fullness of the time, God sent forth His Son made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were (born) under the Law.”*

God sent Him. He already existed. He already was eternally God. *“He was with God and he was God. In the beginning all things were made by Him.”* God sent Him forth. Christ came to redeem us.

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

John said, *“And the Word was made flesh;”* He actually became a man. I can’t explain that but Paul calls it *“a mystery of godliness that God became a man. The Word was made flesh. Great, is the mystery of godliness; God was manifested in the flesh.”*

When the angel was speaking to Joseph about the birth of the Saviour, he said; *“she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

This was done that the saying of the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled. *“Behold; I give you a sign; a virgin shall be with child and bring forth a son and thou shalt call His name Immanuel (God with us).”* That is staggering isn’t it, but it is true.

We need to learn the truth of imputed righteousness. Guilt is ours through Adam. Holiness is ours in Christ. The law of God is exact. The law of God is unchangeable. The law of God is binding upon all flesh and the law of God requires perfection.

Our Lord Jesus came to earth in the flesh, under that law, tried in all points as we are, and perfectly obeyed it without sin. His holiness becomes our holiness and that by God’s grace. He is our Representative. We were in Adam and we are now in Christ.

We look to Christ. We look to Him for our sanctification. We look to Him as our Surety and we look to Him as our Sanctifier.

This is our third word substitution. We look to Christ on the cross as our Substitute. If you don’t know the meaning of the word substitute, you don’t know the Gospel.

I suppose that if you look for just one word which would describe salvation and redemption, it would have to be the word substitution.

Listen to these Scriptures; *“He was wounded for our transgressions, (for, in the stead of, or in the place of) for my transgression. He was bruised for my iniquities. He died the just for the unjust. He bore our sins in his body on the tree.”*

Barabbas, the son of sorrow, was sentenced to die on a cross. Pilate stood before the people of Israel and said, *“It is customary that I release unto you at this time, a prisoner. Whom shall I release? Do I release Jesus who is called the Christ or Barabbas?”* They said, *“Give us Barabbas.”*

So, Barabbas was set free and Christ was nailed to His cross. That clearly illustrates substitution. Christ took his place and died and Barabbas went free.

The Law of God was upon me. I was in bondage to the law and sin. The curse of God’s law was upon me. The wrath of God’s judgment was upon me.

Christ had no sin, knew no sin, committed no sin, and He stood in my place and took my cross and died my death unto the wrath of God and I go free. That my friend is substitution!

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

The justice of God was completely satisfied when our substitute Jesus Christ died because He was identified with us. *“He was numbered with the transgressors.”*

Actually, Christ is innocent but being identified with us and being numbered with the transgressors and becoming *“bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh”* assumed our guilt before God and He died.

The fourth word is resurrection. We look to Christ not only as the Surety, as the Sanctifier and as the Substitute, but we look to Jesus Christ who rose from the dead *“who became the first fruits of them that slept.”*

The resurrection of Christ is a most important part of His redemptive work and of the Gospel. Paul said, *“If Christ be not risen, we are false witnesses of God. If Christ be not risen, you are yet in your sins.” If Christ be not risen, the dead rise not.”*

Do you see the importance of it? Actually, the claims of Christ as being the Son of God, the claims of Christ as being our Saviour are verified by His resurrection. If God didn't bring Him forth from the tomb, what He said was not true because He said; *“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”*

The work of redemption undertaken by Christ in our stead is declared to be accepted of God by His resurrection. When God raised Him from the dead, God is saying, “I accept His work of redemption.”

Also, our own resurrection from the grave is verified by His resurrection because He said, *“because I live, you will live.”* If He doesn't live then we don't live.

Job asked, *“If a man die shall he live again?”* My friends; the question is answered in the resurrection, a man, the Lord Jesus Christ, lives. He died and He lives again.

Here is the fifth word; intercession. We look to Christ our Great High Priest and Mediator with the Father. I know a lot of people don't understand the priesthood of Christ, the priestly work of Christ but it is clearly identified in Scriptures.

In **Hebrews 4:14**, it says this and listen to it; *“Seeing then that we have a Great High Priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, then let us hold fast our profession and let us come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

You don't have a Great High Priest? Don't you come to the throne of grace; that is what He is saying; *“seeing then, that we have a Great High Priest who has entered not into the place made with hands but into heaven itself.”*

PEACE WITH GOD

ROMANS 5:1 • HENRY T. MAHAN

I'm not just talking about the Ark of the Covenant down here but on the mercy seat of glory He put not the blood of an animal but His own blood and pleads His own wounds. He daily intercedes; therefore, we have the right to come boldly.

Listen to this in **Hebrews 10**; *“And having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near in full assurance of faith.” Hebrews 10:12* says, *“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.”*

We don't look to Mary; she is no Intercessor, Advocate, or Mediator. We don't look to any of the apostles or canonized saints to intercede for us. We do not confess our sins to any man on earth. We do not seek forgiveness from any man on earth.

We look to the one Mediator; learn it and learn it well; *“there is one God and one Mediator, the man Christ Jesus.”*

In the next place, there is the return of Christ.

We look for Christ to return. He said to His disciples; *“Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places. I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you; I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am; there you may be also.”*

When our Lord arose from the grave, He took His disciples and went out there on the mountain and He blessed them. He lifted up His hands and blessed them and then He said; *“Tarry in Jerusalem until you be endued with the power of the Holy Spirit and then you shall be witnesses unto me at Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth.”* Then, *“He was taken up from them into heaven.”*

An angel stood by and said to the disciples; *“You men of Galilee; why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus which is taken up from you shall so come in like manner as you have seen Him go.”*

So, we look to Christ in the covenant, in His incarnation as our substitute, as our resurrected Lord, as our Mediator and we look for Him to return. We find in Him, peace!