

Monday, December 26, 2022 ◻ Romans 5:1–2

Questions from the Scripture text: What is the condition of the people the apostle is talking about (v1)? Through what have they been justified? Who has peace? With Whom? Through Whom? By what title is He called here? What else do we have through Him (v2)? What is the mechanism through which we have this access? To what do we have this access? What do those who have this access also do? In what do they rejoice? In what is this hope?

What is the condition of being justified like? Romans 5:1–2 looks forward to the devotional in this week’s midweek meeting. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the condition of being justified is not just a legal standing but a condition of peace, service, strength, joy, and hope.**

Believers can develop the habit of thinking of salvation entirely in terms of being forgiven of sin and given a righteous standing with God. And most of Romans to this point has focused on standing of righteousness before God (over-against being under wrath). But now the letter shifts to the believer’s strengthening for righteousness from God (over-against enslavement to sin).

In the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed from faith and for faith; both the standing and the strengthening come only from Jesus, and both come through the mechanism of faith. So, into what condition has this righteousness by faith brought us? Into a condition of peace, service, strength, joy, and hope!

A condition of peace. “We have peace with God.” This is wonderful. Those against all of whose unrighteousness and ungodliness God’s wrath has been revealed (cf. 1:18) have peace with Him. Christ has been exhibited as a propitiation (cf. 3:25), that the wrath of God might be completely consumed. And Christ has risen from the dead, affirming that this in fact has happened (cf. 4:25). God is entirely favorable toward us. We have peace with God. His divine power and wisdom are no longer against us. We have peace with God. But they are not merely neutral; God *is for us* (cf. 8:31) in His divine power and wisdom. We have peace with God!

A condition of service. “through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Since Christ alone is righteous (cf. 3:10–22), and Christ alone can propitiate for sin that is against God’s glory (cf. 3:23, 1:22–25), peace with God can be had only through Christ. And not Christ as we like to think of Him or Christ as we wish He were, but only Christ as He actually is. So the Spirit adds the title “Lord” here. If we are not ransomed, redeemed subjects of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we do not have peace with God. If we have peace with God, it is as subjects of the Lord Jesus.

Justification has brought the believer into a status of ransomed, redeemed, purchased servitude—joyous servitude, as we will see in a moment, but still servitude! A Christian is a servant. He must live entirely to fulfill the will of his Master.

A condition of strength. “through Whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.” As we come into the section of the letter that argues the theology of the believer as God’s slave for righteousness (ch. 6), the Spirit brings us there through the wonderful doctrine of union with Christ. We are not just under Christ as Lord; we are *in Christ* as Jesus, as Savior. So it is through Him, within Him, by means of Him that “we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.”

We are not brought by faith into a service that we can perform by works. Even our working, even our service, can be done only by God’s own strength. That is to say, we stand not by the flesh but by grace: by God’s strength in the place of our weakness (cf. 2Cor 12:9). Standing, strength for standing, comes only in Jesus, by a mechanism of faith. By the knowledge that Jesus is God’s strength for us, by the awareness that He is carrying us.

A condition of joy. “through Whom also we [...] rejoice.” Jesus doesn’t just make us servants and make Himself our strength for that service. Jesus makes us happy servants. Here is a good test for whether I am actually a servant of Christ or am merely flattering myself that I am a servant of Christ: am I glad? Do I have joy? Jesus came that His joy might be in us (cf. Jn 15:11, 17:13). Through Jesus we have access to grace, and through Jesus we rejoice! It is possible to have an accurate knowledge of justification without having an experiential knowledge of justification; those who are justified in Jesus are made servants in Jesus and are made joyful in Jesus!

A condition of hope. “in hope of the glory of God.” It is the truth of God’s glory that the sinner has suppressed in unrighteousness (cf. 1:18–21). It is the blessedness of the Creator’s glory that the sinner has exchanged in order to seek blessedness in creatures instead (cf. 1:25). It is against the glory of God that all have sinned, and it is the enjoyment of the glory of God that all have forfeited by that sin (cf. 3:23). But for the believer, Jesus has reversed all of this. Through Him, we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

This New Testament word ‘hope’ is not a wishful desire. Though we have grown accustomed to using the word that way in English, the word here doesn’t mean something wishful but something that is absolutely certain. It means the ability to enjoy already something that is not yet seen (cf. 8:24; Heb 11:1). To put it succinctly: if we already have the righteousness of God, then we can already enjoy the certainty of God’s glory.

The more that we experience a joy that profound, the less that light and momentary pleasures will succeed in compelling us to serve them instead of serving Christ.

When have you most needed to know your peace with God? What should you do in those moments? What would a log of your time and spending suggest about whether you are a servant of Christ? By what strength have you been trying to stand? What is the source of your joy? What is the quality of your joy? For what do you hope? How surely do you hope?

Sample prayer: Lord God, thank You for this righteous standing into which You have brought us in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant unto us to know also the glorious condition into which You have brought us. Give us Your own strength, joy, and hope in Christ, in Whose Name, we ask it AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP117B “What Blessedness” or TPH433 “Amazing Grace”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans chapter 5 verses 1 through 2. These are God's words. Therefore having been justified by faith. We have peace with god. Through our lord, jesus christ. Through whom also, we have access By faith into this grace in which we stand. And, Rejoice in the hope. Of the glory. Of god.

So far, the reading of god's. Inspired, and they're into it. And these two verses. Uh we have a great deal about what it is like to be someone. Who has been brought into a right standing? With god. This has been. A long time in. Coming to or arriving at from being in a place that is under the wrath of god, because of all of our unrighteousness and all of our ungodliness The wrath of god has displayed.

Against every bit of our unrighteousness. And every bit Of our ungodliness. And so, there was A extended description. In the latter half of Romans 1 and in some respects. Going into Romans 2 and romans, three. Of what it is, like, To be under the wrath of god, to Um, To be wicked before him.

But now our verse says, therefore having been justified by faith for the apostle has proclaimed to us now, not just the wrath of god, that is revealed against all unrighteousness, but the righteousness of god, that is revealed in the gospel. Through faith in jesus christ. That righteousness that is apart from the law that righteousness, that is apart from works.

That righteousness? That is in jesus. And that when we by faith are resting upon jesus and are therefore united to jesus. We are righteous Uh, before god and god is just and the justifier. Of the one who has faith in jesus. But this. Uh, this righteous Righteousness is not just a legal status but it is a condition.

Before god, we are brought into A condition of peace. A condition of service, a condition of strength. And a condition of joy. Uh, so in the first place, Uh being made right with god, having a right standing with god, brings us into a condition of peace. Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace.

With god. God is not against us. Therefore having been justified by faith. We have peace with god. We know that he is for us. His thunder. Doesn't scare us. It thrills us. The one who is making the earth shake with that sound. Is the one who has given me righteousness in jesus.

The one who has been determined since before the world began to make me perfectly. Holy in that perfectly happy to adopt me as his child forever. That i may be blessed. We have peace with god. Coming to faith in jesus christ, and And, Uh, being justified by faith is like being hazy and having your eyes opened.

Where you had known before or felt before in your heart to everything is against you and the unbeliever's right when he thinks that everything is against him because he is against god and even the god who does him all of that good. The that god's wrath burns against his sin and should he die outside of christ?

The. The moment that he does, so there will be no more common grace. There will only be the wrath of god against him. So every difficulty, every pain, every scare, every anxiety for the unbeliever robs him of his peace. It tells him you are god's enemy. You are sinning against him.

You are breaking his law. You are pushing down on his glory. Your denying his truth. You deserve hell. And so the belief, the sorry, the unbeliever goes through life thinking i deserve, hell, i deserve, hell, i deserve hell, i deserve help and trying to reassure himself, trying to make himself feel better about himself.

And which he often does by by trying to be judgmental towards others. And and this, this whole Man-made religion, whatever that man-made religion is, whether by the unconverted in the church, are those expressing, even the converted expressing remaining sin in the church or all the way to the one who thinks himself an atheist.

But his religion is how superior he is to not believe in God, like all of those fools everything there and he's trying to make himself feel better about what he knows. That god is and that god is. Holy And that the that atheist has denying God and deserves hell.

Nobody has peace with god. Except the one. Who is justified by faith in jesus christ. This is one of the reasons why a believer loves To. Grow in grace and loves for the spirit to produce fruit, and him, and loves to attend upon the The means of grace and his private life reading and praying knowing that this is how God is going to sanctify me and And attending upon the means of grace in our family worship and especially in the public worship, knowing that this is how jesus who used his word to give me faith.

In the first place is going to keep using that word and using a sacrament using prayer to grow me in faith to grow me in grace, because the more we grow in grace, The more we have peace of conscience. It is wrong to have, Piece of conscience. If we are indulging ourselves in sin or if we are backsliding, There are many, who Uh, who preach falsely?

They preach a an abbreviated version of the gospel, which, of course, you know, from the bible is to To mess up the gospel altogether. There are those who try to give peace of conscience to those who are walking and wickedness. Rather than calling them to repentance. And saying, peace is found in jesus.

Turn again from your sin. Rest only in what jesus has done. His righteousness is complete to sacrifice is complete and his power and life to make you walk and holiness as complete. And so, a good conscience is such a blessing from god. Because it is the reminder that the one who is Who has given us faith in jesus, so that we would know forgiveness and the one who has given us faith in jesus so that we would depend upon him for holiness.

Is the one who has producing. This hatred of sin and this increasing success in killing particular sins. And so there's this wonderful condition. Where we go through life. And even though we have that remaining struggle, At the end of roman 7. We are engaged by the fact that we are engaged in that struggle.

In the beginning of Romans 8. We know. That we have that peace with god that shall ultimately be completed and cannot be taken away in the end. Of Romans 8. Having been justified by faith. We have peace with. God. That could be an entire sermon. All by itself, but we have condition of peace.

We also have a condition of service Therefore having been justified by faith. We have peace with god through our lord jesus christ, and this helps us to avoid That false and enjoyment of peace or that enjoyment of false peace that we were talking about before. There are some who think that what they're enjoying is peace with god, but what they're really enjoying is having a seared conscience.

A conscience that has stopped saying that sin is wrong that hatred for your brother is wrong, that gossip about your sister is wrong. Those lies that you're telling are wrong, that indulgence of your flesh is wrong. That's that lusting. And using your eyes with lust as wrong. There are those who have refused to listen to their conscience.

So many times have a seared conscience. It's like it has burned with a hot iron like we were hearing in first Timothy. And the dreadful mistake that someone can make of thinking that what he has is. Peace with god through our lord Jesus Christ. When, what they really have is Have developed the skill.

Of refusing. To serve Jesus Christ as lord. Thinking that they can have Christ as savior and Christ as atonement and Christ is righteousness. But not Christ, as Lord no the peace with god that the justified one has and Romans chapter 5 verse 1 is peace with god through our lord Jesus Christ.

And if you have a lord, You are in his service. Being justified. Brings us into a state of service. Or as we might better put it. Being justified, brings us into a different or new state of service. Because before you're justified, you're in a state of service, you're in a state of bondage to sin, Being justified.

Brings you into a new service. The happy service of the lord Jesus Christ. And so if we don't live our lives as servants, Then we have not been justified but if we have been justified we actually rejoice to live our lives of servants. You know, there may be those, I'm sure who in one turn of providence or another end up being servants.

Where, Whatever the providence is has brought them into a state of servitude and every morning when they wake up, you know suppose this was another century. What's the first thing they do? They run and they get colds from the fire and and they start the fire and the master's bedroom, that's where the master bedroom.

Language comes from, they start the fire in the fireplace of the master bedroom so that it can be warm in the master's bedroom when he wakes up and as the master is waking up, they run. And you know they are getting the master's breakfast. And they're very aware. From the moment they wake up to the moment, they go to bed.

That they live as servants. Now, the service of our lord, Jesus Christ is a much happier. Service isn't it? As soon as we wake up, we remember ha. That's right. This turn of providence that happened to me in which god gave me life and brought me to faith. He made me a servant.

So we wake up and we don't say oh I'm a servant. I better go get the fire started. They said, oh lord. Thank you. You delivered me from bondage to sin. You've made me. A slave of righteousness. And we do our devotions. Everyone. Everyone does their devotions when they wake up.

That's just that not everyone does. Not everyone is devoted to something that they would like to admit out loud. All right. Now I don't mean like that if you have a bodily need of using the restroom, would you wake up that you're devoted to the toilet? But if you have a spiritual need, To do something else.

Than meditate upon the word of god. And, Call upon his name and have fellowship with him in prayer. Then you are doing devotions. If the first thing I do is check my phone. Which seems in my life. This has been true. If the fruit and about depends on what you're doing on your phone, right?

You can use that bible app and Not to be too profane. But you can try to get ahead of the weakness of your of your remaining fleshliness. By making sure that the first thing you see on the toilet, is the word of god. Thanking him for keeping you through the night, asking him to help you not squander these precious of a moments that are going to set the tone for the rest of your day.

Being justified by faith. Brings us not just into a condition of peace. It brings us into. The condition of service we have peace with god through. Our lord Jesus Christ. And, Now that we have done that much, I originally wanted to take the first five verses I decided upon.

The first two. But the sermons of the midweek meeting are short. I think we're going to cut off. Verse 1 this week. And we'll have to take verse 2 Uh, next week. But this is really foundational stuff for us, isn't it? That the difference between life as an unjustified unbeliever.

And, As a justified believer. Is in the first place knowing that, god is for you. Even. In your engagement in the battle against sin. And helping you in the battle against sin. Because you enjoy that piece of conscience as you keep short accounts with god. And whenever you find sin, you hate it, you turn from it, you tell it no, and you kill it.

And you're doing that battle. And you realize, god is for you, he has turned you against your sin and Uh, you maintain that good conscience. Oh, the blessing of a good conscience. We had peace with god and then second great difference between the unjustified unbeliever what his life is like and the justified believer.

And with his life is like One is a slave. And doesn't even know it. The other. Was a slave and loves it. Is a slave of Christ. Everything he does all day long. Is determined by service to Christ and how he does it is determined by service to Christ.

Why he doesn't is determined by Service to Christ. Praise God. Then, let's pray.

Her father in heaven. We thank you. For the great difference. That justification. Status. Makes in our life condition. And I pray. Oh god for my wife and for my children for myself. That we might live as those who have peace with you. And that we might live as those.

Who have brought been brought into a new. And happy service. Granted, we ask. In Christ's name. Amen.