

46. The Book of Romans 5:1

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

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(3-20-24)

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I. Condemnation-verses 1:18-3:20

II. Justification- verses 3:21-5:21

A. Introduction of Justification by Faith— verses 3:21-31

B. Illustration of Justification by Faith— verses 4:1-25

C. Implications of Justification by Faith— verses 5:1-11

In other words, what are the benefits or the blessings of being justified by faith—or to put it another way—*what do you have when you have Jesus?*

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

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

The word, “**Therefore**” links us to the foundation that has been laid in chapters 3 and 4 which deals with justification by faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, having been justified by faith...verse 1

Justification isn't a *process*; you don't *grow* into justification (salvation)—it's instantaneous and irreversible the moment you put your faith in Jesus Christ.

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

1 John 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...

Now, Paul wants you to know that once you've received Jesus as your Savior—once you've entered into Him by faith, there are many blessings that become yours by virtue of your relationship with Him. He then goes on to list, in the first 11 verses of Chapter 5—**eight** things that are ours when we have Jesus and have been justified by faith.

1. Peace with God—verse 1

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is this peace?

One commentator defines the peace that Paul is talking about—

“Some have said it’s a peace of mind, a psychological sense of security, a kind of positive feeling about our relationship with God. But that’s a very subjective kind of thing. This is not subjective but objective. It isn’t dealing with feelings but with a relationship. If we have peace with God because of salvation, what did we have with God prior to salvation?—WAR!”

Jesus Christ has dramatically changed our relationship with God—and that’s what Paul is talking about here. Primarily we have:

Peace with God

God’s Word teaches us that we were born into this world as children of Adam—separated from God thru the Fall and at enmity with Him (rebels at war with God) having the wrath of God (judgment) abiding upon us (John 3:36). The Bible teaches that, at one time, God also considered us *His* enemies—in other words, He was at enmity with fallen man as well.

Now let me stop here and say this—there are a lot of people who go thru life determined not to speak with God or to bow to His will for their lives or who refuse to even acknowledge His presence—why, because they’re at war with God.

Why are they at war with God? Because they blame Him for some tragedy or disappointment they have suffered in life.

Maybe they lost someone dear to them to sickness or to an accident of some kind—a spouse or a child, a parent, a sibling, or someone else they had a special relationship with.

Or maybe it was the loss of *their* health due to some disease or infirmity, or the loss of a business they spent years building only to see it wiped away by the COVID lockdowns a few years ago or more recently through inflation—or some other tragedy.

Because of it they blame God and want nothing to do with Him—they hate God and have declared war on Him. But the vast number of people at war with God don’t even know that they’re at war with God—they would say, *“I’ve never been at war with God, I love God!”* As a ‘proof’ of their ‘love’ for God they point to how ‘religious’ they are!

What they don’t realize is that *religion* is another form of rebellion against God—the very rebellion the Jewish people manifested toward God thru their devotion to Judaism (a religious system) while having rejected Jesus as their Savior and Messiah/King.

Romans 10:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

So, returning to the point I was making—the Bible presents a picture of God and man after the Fall with their backs towards each other “*arms folded*,” you might say, signifying the enmity both had for one another. But then Jesus died on the cross for sinners—and at that moment God’s righteousness was satisfied (‘propitiated’) because sin had now been paid for.

The result was that God turned and faced man (who still had his back turned toward God in stubborn rebellion)—God turned toward us with His hands extended inviting us to come to Him for forgiveness, fellowship and eternal life.

When a person accepts God’s offer of forgiveness and comes to Jesus for salvation—that person is forgiven—saved—and now is in perfect, loving fellowship with God! Imagine, if you will—God and man now facing one another in blessed communion (oneness) with each other.

This is what Paul meant in Romans 5:1 when he said—“**Having been justified by faith [saved], we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

In other words, the ‘war’ is over—we have laid down our hostility toward God and His commandments, surrendered our lives to Him in obedience as His servants—and He in turn has forgiven us and adopted us into His family!

Now, **peace with God** (salvation) is essential if we are going to experience the second kind of peace the Bible talks about for the child of God—

The Peace of God

Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Let me say this—**peace with God** is objective, whereas the **peace of God** is subjective. In Romans 5:1 when Paul talks about us having **peace with God** when we receive Jesus as our Savior—in the Greek it’s in the present tense (something that exists right now). In other words, this isn’t a peace we are waiting for in the future—it’s a peace that is ours right now from the moment we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior.

When I say that **peace with God** is objective not subjective—I mean it isn’t based on *feelings* (which are up and down depending on our circumstance at the moment). This peace (peace with God) is based on the objective truth that we have entered into a relationship with Jesus based on faith—a relationship which is eternal and never changing!

However, the **peace of God** is subjective, and because of where we are in our walk with God at any given moment—it is a peace that can ‘come and go’. Again, let me say—no one can experience the **‘peace of God’** who hasn’t first experienced **‘peace with God’** (salvation)—

Isaiah 57:19–21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to *him who is far off* and to *him who is near*,” Says the Lord, “And I will heal him.” ²⁰ But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ²¹ “*There is no peace*,” Says my God, “for the wicked.”

In saying this, God wasn't saying that the *wicked* (unbelievers) don't have access to *any* peace—He was simply saying that they don't have access to His peace. The world can and does experience its own form of peace—

John 14:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Jesus acknowledges here that the world does offer unbelievers peace—but it's not the true peace that only Jesus can give.

The peace the world offers to people is a peace based on escapism—whether they escape from their problems through the use of drugs and alcohol, or by literally running away from their problems, or by committing suicide (suicide being the ultimate form of escapism).

Peace due to escapism was the kind of peace King David flirted with in Psalm 55:

Psalm 55:4–8 (NLT)

⁴ My heart pounds in my chest. The terror of death assaults me. ⁵ Fear and trembling overwhelm me, and I can't stop shaking. ⁶ Oh, that I had wings like a dove; then I would fly away and rest! ⁷ I would fly far away to the quiet of the wilderness...⁸ How quickly I would escape— far from this wild storm...

This is often the kind of peace people seek, a false peace due to 'escapism' (most of the time through alcohol and drugs)—but listen, numbing yourself with a substance will bring some initial 'peace'—if it didn't people would never use those things to get some peace (escape).

But it's not a true and lasting peace—it's an artificial peace that will lead a person into dependency to that drug and ultimately into bondage where the 'cure' is worse than the problem they're facing!

Whereas the peace that comes from Jesus is real, lasting and liberating! The peace that Jesus gives is a true peace that the world knows nothing about because it's a supernatural peace that comes directly from God and—*"transcends all human understanding."* (Philippians 4:7)

The **peace of God** is a peace that only a child of God can experience—because it's an *attribute* of His divine nature (the fruit of the Spirit is *"love, joy, peace..."*—Galatians 5:22-23).

The only way for a person to experience any attribute of God in their life (all of which are exclusive to His nature)—is to have God's nature *planted* within them. That only happens when they receive Jesus into their heart as Savior and the Holy Spirit moves in (which is what it means to be '*born-again*' or '*born of the Spirit*').

At that moment, as Peter tells us, they become *"partakers of God's divine nature."* (2 Peter 1:4) However, understand—the **peace of God** doesn't happen *automatically* once you become a Christian. Many Christians still worry, still experience stress, still have nervous breakdowns—and even still commit suicide.

The reason is they aren't following the biblical injunctions for maintaining practical, everyday peace in their hearts—*"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts..."* (Colossians 3:15)

By saying this Paul is implying that the peace of God *can* (and will) rule in our hearts if we let it—if we don't hinder or strangle it thru worry by focusing our thoughts on the problem (like Peter on the Sea of Galilee) instead of on the God who can solve any problem.

The peace of God is a subject that permeates the Bible—culminating in the incarnation where God became flesh and dwelt among us in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace! Paul said in Ephesians 2:14 that Jesus Himself is our peace!

Now listen, that doesn't mean that we can't (or won't) face situations that will try to rob us of the peace of God (our peace in Christ)—situations that seem contrary to our understanding of God Himself. My pastor used to say—*“When you can't understand what God is doing in a given situation—fall back on what you do understand about God.”*

Now, before we look at that, remember what the Bible says about how we are to handle anything in life that comes our way—both good and bad, *“In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you who are children of God.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:18 paraphrase) Notice that Paul says give thanks ‘in’ everything not ‘for’ everything.

However, you won't *thank* God in everything until you first learn to *trust* God in everything. Trusting God in everything won't be possible unless you believe three things about Him:

1. God is sovereign

This means that not only is God *aware* of everything that touches my life—it means that He is in absolute *control* of everything that touches my life.

God's sovereignty means He is all-powerful when it comes to the circumstances of my life—that nothing happens in my life except what God allows for His purposes.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

It doesn't say *“we see all things working together for our good...”*—it says, *“we know it by faith”* because of what God has told us in His Word.

Now, the fact that God is sovereign (which includes the fact that He is all-powerful) wouldn't comfort me in times of difficulty or adversity if I didn't believe the second truth about Him—

2. God is an all-loving God Who loves me unconditionally

You see, if God was all-powerful but a cruel despot—that wouldn't comfort me, it would terrify me! The fact that God is all-powerful *and* at the same time is all-loving is a tremendous comfort to me.

God loves us with all of His heart, which He proved on Calvary—*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8)

The Bible clearly teaches that God's sovereignty and His love always work together for my ultimate good—I have to believe that by faith because my circumstances don't always show me that this is true.

The devil is always trying to get me to judge the love and goodness of God by my circumstances—instead of by what God has revealed about Himself in His Word.

However, these 2 truths—that God is sovereign (all-powerful) and that God is all-loving Who loves me with all of His heart unconditionally—still wouldn't be enough to comfort me in times of great adversity if I didn't believe one more thing about Him—

3. God is infinitely wise

Look, even if God is all-powerful and all-loving—if He wasn't very wise, He could still lead my life 'over a cliff' by leading me in the wrong path.

I mean He meant well—but didn't have the wisdom to lead me in the right path for my life! It's knowing that God is all-wise AND all-powerful and all-loving that solidifies my trust in Him to lead me in the right path and ultimately to the right place for my life.

Look, God is so much wiser than I am—a truth I accept in *principle* but not always in practice. There are many things that God allows to happen in my life or in the lives of others that, honestly—I really don't understand.

I look at the situation and say to myself, "*If I were God, I wouldn't have let that happen*", or "*If I were God, I wouldn't have done things that way...*" The problem is—I'm **not God!** I can't see the big picture like God—I only have limited information of the situation.

But that never seems to stop me from making judgments based on my limited understanding—judgments which often cause me to question the wisdom (and ultimately the love and goodness) of God.

Peter said the problem with us is that—"*we only see what is near and not what is a far off.*" In other words, we can't see the future, so we don't know what is coming down the road tomorrow or next week or next year—but God does.

I need to realize that God is often working in my life today, preparing me today for what He knows is coming tomorrow, next week, next month—or even 5 years down the road! So, I have to trust in the **sovereignty**, the **love** and the **wisdom** of God because—like a 3-legged stool, these truths will hold me up when my circumstances try to knock me down!

They will keep me going by strengthening me in my adversity. They will strengthen my faith in knowing that everything is working together for good in my life (eternal good not temporal comfort) by the One Who loves me and gave Himself for me!

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

We must keep our eyes on our God and trust in His ability to take care of us and bring us thru whatever storm of life we are facing—and all the anxiety and stress that comes with it.

Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

³ You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

You see folks—that's the key!

The key to experiencing this peace (the peace of God)—is that you have to keep your thoughts (your mind) fixed on God! How do we fix our thoughts on God? By filling our minds with His Word and His promises:

Psalms 119:11-16 (NKJV)

¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You! ¹² Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! ¹³ With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth. ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways. ¹⁶ I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

When your mind is constantly being filled with God's Word—your thoughts will be dominated by faith in God—*"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."* (Romans 10:17) The kind of faith that is rooted in absolute confidence in His strength, love and wisdom towards you.

The world takes refuge in pills and the bottle—but we take refuge in the Lord our God.

When you're facing terrible news don't panic or rely on your own strength—spend some time in His presence and let Him calm and strengthen you.

Psalms 27:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Isaiah 30:15 (NKJV)

"...In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

Now, let me just say that the **peace of God** is the peace that we as Christians at this moment in our lives (and in the history of our nation)—absolutely need!

John 16:33 (NKJV)

³³ 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."

In closing—I can understand alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide—I don't agree with them, but I can understand them because of the world we are living in. People need peace and if it doesn't come naturally (which today is almost impossible) they will grab for it artificially—I recommend getting it supernaturally through Jesus Christ!

When you do the peace of God, which this world cannot understand, will guard your heart and mind in Christ—as you continue drawing close to the Lord and be about your Father's business:

Isaiah 32:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness, and assurance forever.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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