

48. The Book of Romans 5:2

Paul's Epistle to the Romans
A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(4-10-24)

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In our study in Romans, we have recently finished Chapter 4 and have entered into Chapter 5.

Romans 5 is an amplification of the last 2 words of Romans 4: "*Our justification*"—and explains two basic truths: '*The Blessings of Justification*'; '*The Basis for our Justification.*'

The Blessings of Justification—verses 5:1-11

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—8 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,

2. Access to God—verse 2

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

² through whom also we have access by faith ...

We not only have peace *with* God—but access *to* God.

The word 'access' is a Greek word we get our English word '*protocol*' from—which means "*The proper way to come into the presence of a king.*" (John 14:6)

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

² through whom also we have access...

Because our standing is based on *grace* (getting what we don't deserve)—we can come boldly into God's presence and know that our access is a permanent possession—it cannot and will not be taken away at some later time.

Jesus has achieved a complete and continuous access into God's presence for us who have received Him as our Savior.

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

² through whom also we have access by faith **into this grace...**

The biblical definition of **grace** (charis) is *“a gift” or “unmerited favor, undeserved blessing.”*

But when the word is applied to the practical matters of the Christian life it means anything we need from God in any situation to have victory over any challenge, any trial, any crisis—or anything we need in general from God to know His will, to do His work and to bring glory to His name—His grace will provide for us.

So, in that regard grace takes many different forms—

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift [‘grace’] you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s **grace in its various forms.**

Grace implies two things to us—Relationship and Resources.

I am *related* to God through Jesus by grace through faith, and that leads to unlimited access to God’s *resources*—His manifold grace to help me in my time of need—no matter what that need is.

1) Saving Grace

This is where it all begins—this is the grace that Paul is referring to here in Romans 5:2, **“this grace”** is *saving grace*.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

2) Serving Grace

1 Corinthians 15:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

One pastor said,

“There comes a time in your Christian life where you feel, ‘I can’t help one more person’ or ‘I can’t preach one more sermon or council one more person’ or if you’re a mom, ‘I can’t wash one more load of clothes, fix one more meal, clean up one more mess, or change one more diaper! Yes, you can because—God gives serving grace.”

The God of all grace gives us the gifts we need for ministry (charis—‘grace gifts’)—but He doesn’t stop there; He gives us the grace to *use* those gifts to serve God’s people.

We’re not here to *be* served but to *serve*, as Jesus taught us—but many don’t have the mind of Christ on being a servant, so they never experience serving grace. (Luke 6:38)

3) Sacrificing Grace

2 Corinthians 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

The churches of Macedonia were going through hard times but by the grace of God they gave sacrificially to the work of God through Paul's ministry.

(Use the illustration of the widow and the 2 mites on sacrificial giving—and it doesn't have to be money, it could be your time.)

4) Suffering Grace

2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. ⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

One author had this to say—

"The people in Scripture who failed—failed in their strengths not their weaknesses. Abraham's great strength was his faith, that's also where he failed—he lied about his wife two times to try and save his skin. Moses' great strength was his meekness, he put up with things most of us could never have put up with—but that's also where he failed; he struck the rock out of anger and frustration. David's great strength was his integrity, God said; "I have found Me a man after My Own heart"—but that's also where he failed. Peter's great strength was his courage, and yet when a little girl questioned him about being a disciple of Christ—he panicked and denied Jesus three times. So, in that regard—when I'm strong, I'm weak—and when I'm weak, I'm strong."

Suffering keeps us weak (humble) so we can be strong in God's strength.

Even though we pray and ask God to take it away, like Paul did, there are times when God says to us, as He did to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, My strength is made perfect in weakness"—it's called suffering grace!

5) Singing Grace

Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Look, sometimes it takes grace to sing to the Lord!

None of us knows how difficult it is at times for some in the worship team to lead us in praise to God—we don't know what they are going through.

Singing grace is what God gave Paul and Silas in that Philippian jail, and as one pastor put it—"*they 'rocked the place!'*"

It says of Jesus that the night before He went to the cross, He sang a hymn with His disciples to His Father (Mark 14:26—*tradition says it was Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it."*).

If I knew I was going to be illegally arrested, illegally bound, illegally whipped and beaten and spat upon and crucified, I don't think I'd feel like singing, but Jesus did—it's called *singing grace*.

Hebrews 13:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, giving thanks to His name.

6) Speaking Grace

Colossians 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

This is something that I'm very familiar with because I have a tremendous fear of public speaking. Every time I have to speak in public, I ask God for speaking grace.

But also, there have been many times a situation came upon me, and I didn't know what to say but God gave me speaking grace for witnessing, counseling, or when answering an unkind word.

7) Strengthening Grace

2 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)

¹ You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

This Scripture follows what Paul said in 2Timothy 1:8-18 (comment on these verses)

8) Singleness Grace

1 Corinthians 7:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For I wish that all men were even as I myself ['single']. But each one has his own gift ['grace'] from God, one in this manner and another in that.

There are special blessings and freedoms that come with singleness—but there are also special susceptibilities such as loneliness and sexual temptations. But as in everything else God calls us to He gives grace to handle it if we look to Him by faith.

9) Sinning Grace

This doesn't refer, of course, to God giving us grace *to* sin—but the grace to forgive us *when* we sin regardless of how big the sin is.

Romans 5:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ ...But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

God is the God of all grace, and we come to the throne of grace in our time need, and we then become the recipients of the manifold grace of God to help us in whatever we're going through.

Someone has used '**grace**' as an acronym for: **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.

So, the blessings of justification that we have are:

1. **Peace with God**—verse 1
2. **Access to God**—verse 2a; and
3. **Standing with God**—verse 2b

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

² **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand...**

This has been the problem of the ages—how can a sinner stand in the presence of a holy God?—

Psalms 130:3 (NKJV)

³ If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

Psalms 24:3–4 (NKJV)

³ Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

All throughout the Scriptures it is emphasized that the ungodly are not able to stand in the presence of God in the sense of righteousness—they will still stand before Him in judgment. You see, down through the ages the ungodly have not always realized this—but during the time of God's wrath coming upon the earth they will realize it as never before!

Revelation 6:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

All who are without justification by faith in Christ will be condemned on the Day of Judgment. But those who have trusted in Jesus Christ, who suffered condemnation in their place, will never be condemned because they have '*passed from death to life.*' (John 5:24; Romans 8:1)

"We stand" (verse 2) in the Greek means that as Christians we stand "*continuously and permanently in God's never changing and never-ending grace.*"

All Christians begin in grace (salvation), but many then think they must '*take over*' by their own human efforts and works if they are to become mature and fruitful (sanctification)—something Paul came out strongly against in Galatians 3:2–3 and Galatians 5:1–4.

As one pastor put it—

“A standing in grace reassures us: God’s present attitude towards the believer in Christ Jesus is one of favor, seeing them in terms of joy, beauty, and pleasure. He doesn’t just love us; He likes us because we are in Jesus!”

Someone else has pointed out that, for the Christian ‘standing in grace’ in part means:

- *I don’t have to prove I am worthy of God’s love.*
- *God is my friend—His perfect love casts out fear.*
- *The door of access to God is permanently open to me.*
- *I am free from the “score sheet”—the account is settled in Jesus.*
- *I spend more time praising God and less time hating myself.*

Theologian and Pastor William Newell said that the proper attitude of a man or woman under grace consists of the following:

- *To believe, and consent to be loved while unworthy, is the great secret.*
- *To refuse to make “resolutions” and “vows”; for that is to trust in the flesh.*
- *To expect to be blessed, though realizing more and more your lack of worth.*
- *To testify of God’s goodness, at all times.*
- *To be certain of God’s future favor; yet to be ever more tender in conscience toward Him.*
- *To rely on God’s chastening hand as a mark of His kindness (“Whom the Lord loves He chastens...”)*
- *A man under grace, like Paul, has no burdens regarding himself (he’s content); but many about others.*

4. Rejoicing in Hope of the Glory of God—verse 2b

Romans 5:2 (NKJV)

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

The logical conclusion to such a standing in grace in the presence of God means that we can ‘**rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**’

- **“Peace with God”** takes care of the past: *He will no longer hold our sins against us.*
- **“Access to God”** takes care of the present: *we can come to Him at any time for the help we need.*
- **“Hope of the glory of God”** takes care of the future: *one day we shall share in His glory!*

One author put it this way—

“The Christian has no reason to fear the future and every reason to rejoice in it, because he has the divinely-secured hope that his ultimate destiny is to share in the very glory of God. Jesus Christ guarantees the believer’s hope because He Himself is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1).

Colossians 3:3–4 (NKJV)

³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Arthur W. Pink said that the ark is one of the clearest and most comprehensive types of the believer's salvation in Christ found anywhere in Scripture.

A. *The ark was a place of refuge and safety from God's judgment.*

Inside the ark was life, outside the ark was death—just like being in or outside of Christ.

B. *God said to Noah and his family, "Come into the ark" not "Go into the ark."*

It was an invitation not a command—even as we are invited to come into Christ—“*Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.*” (Matthew 11:28)

God never forces anyone to be saved, He only invites.

C. *The ark was place of absolute security.*

God told Noah to put ‘pitch’ (tar) on the inside and the outside of the ark—this would have completely sealed it from the waters of the Flood—in other words, inside the ark there was complete safety from judgment—so, no the ark didn't leak!

There is only one way to escape the judgment of God and that is by applying the blood of Jesus to your life which seals you in Christ safely and securely unto the Day of Salvation (Rapture).

It also tells us in Genesis that **God** shut the door of the ark sealing Noah and his family *securely* inside.

Interestingly, the Holy Spirit makes the point to tell us that one year later, when Noah and his family and all the animals finally came out of the ark that none were lost—all that entered the ark made it to enter a brand-new world.

John 6:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

D. *The ark had only one door.*

Jesus said, “*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved...if anyone tries to enter any other way he is a thief and a robber*”; And, He also said, “*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”

E. *We're told that the ark had three levels in it.*

The Bible teaches that our salvation takes place on three different levels—past, present, and future.

- 1) *We have been saved* from the penalty of sin—we're no longer going to hell.
- 2) *We are being saved* from the power of sin—we're no longer the slaves of sin.
- 3) *We will be saved* (future tense) from the presence of sin—we're no longer going to live among sin.

So Noah and his family in the ark were a type of the believer in Christ.

Some people have a theology of salvation that's as though Noah was told by God to build the ark, put the animals inside and then make pegs on the outside of the ark for them to grab on to—and if they were strong enough to still be hanging on when the Flood was over then and only then would they know they had made it.

Or in other words, *"If I can hang on to my salvation till Jesus comes or I die—I've made it!"*

But God shut Noah and his family inside the ark, just as God sealed you in Christ with the Holy Spirit at the moment of your salvation. Noah couldn't have gotten out if he had wanted to—but he never would have wanted to because he knew that outside the ark was certain death.

The fact that he was sealed in the ark didn't make him feel trapped it made him feel secure! Remember that God said to Noah—*"Come into the ark"* not *"Go,"* indicating that God was inside the ark. If the ark would have sunk it would have sunk with God in it signifying that God couldn't preserve those who He saved, and that's ridiculous.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

No doubt during the flood, as the ark was tossed to and fro, Noah fell down many times while in the ark—but he never fell out of the ark and perished.

Even so you will stumble and fall many times while in Christ, but you'll never, ever fall out of Christ and perish.

Jude 1:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...

John 10:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Once you come to Christ you are sealed securely in Christ by the Holy Spirit and you are guaranteed to never come into judgment but have everlasting life—which means you are saved 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.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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