

49. The Book of Romans 5:2-4

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

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In our study in Romans, we are currently in the second major section of the book—a section that runs from 3:21-5:21. This section is dealing with the most important doctrine in the Christian faith—the doctrine of **'Justification.'**

In this section Paul is basically telling us how fallen sinners can be justified or made right with God—which means how can they have fellowship with Him now and be accepted by Him into heaven someday?

We recently finished Chapter 4 and have entered into Chapter 5. In this chapter, Paul explains two basic truths: **'The Blessings of our Justification'; and 'The Basis for our Justification.'**

The Blessings of Our 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**
2. **Access by Faith into this Grace-verse 2a**
3. **Standing with God-verse 2a**
4. **Rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God—verse 2b**

Romans 5:1–2 (NKJV)

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

When Paul said that as believers we are ‘*hidden with Christ in God*’—the idea is one of safety and security—security from judgment.

It reminds me of Noah’s ark.

Arthur W. Pink said that Noah’s ark is one of the clearest and most comprehensive types of the believer’s salvation in Christ found anywhere in Scripture (we’re talking about the ‘*the hope of glory*’—Romans 5:2)).

1. 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 inside or outside of Christ.

2. 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 to Christ and be ‘in Christ’ for salvation—“*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.

3. The ark was a 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—and **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 by faith which seals you in Christ safely and securely unto the day of salvation (Rapture). 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 were preserved alive and 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.

4. 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.*”

5. 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 slaves of sin.
- 3) *We will be saved* (future tense) from the presence of sin—we're no longer going to live among sin. (Revelation 21:27)

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.

In other words, *"If I can hang on to Jesus (my salvation) till He comes back or I die—I've made it!"*
In their theology, it's all about how well the believer holds onto to Jesus—when in reality, the Bible teaches that the believer's salvation is all about how well Jesus is holding onto us:

John 10:27–30 (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. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one."

When you read carefully the account of Noah's ark in Genesis—an important detail is mentioned—that God shut the door of the ark sealing Noah and his family inside (Genesis 7:16)! This is exactly what God did when we put our faith in Jesus—He sealed us in Christ with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

➤ It begs the question—*could Noah have gotten out of the ark if he had wanted to?*

Well, I don't think so but—he never would have wanted to because he knew that inside the ark was life, while 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 gone down 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 [*all the way to glory!*] 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 in the waters of judgment, 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...

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation [*no hell*] to those who are in Christ Jesus...

Once you come to Christ you are sealed securely in Christ by the Holy Spirit, and you are guaranteed to *never* come into judgment—which means you are saved forever!

John 5:24 (NLT)

²⁴ "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

Romans 5:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 hope Paul had in mind (the hope of future glory) was not a *possibility*—it is an absolute certainty.

I can rejoice in the absolute certainty that someday I will stand in the presence of God and the '**glory of God**' will be made manifest to me—in fact, from God's perspective—I am already glorified. (Rom.8:30)

The 5th blessing of being justified by faith is—

5. We Glory in Tribulations—verses 3-4**Romans 5:3–4 (NKJV)**

³ **And not only *that*, but we also glory** ['rejoice'] **in tribulations** ["in" not "for" tribulations], **knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;** ⁴ **and perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

The **tribulations** that Paul is referring to are not the troubles that are common to all mankind—but the troubles that Christians suffer for the sake of and in the service to their Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the less attractive promises that Scripture gives believers is that those who are faithful to Jesus can expect to be persecuted by the devil through the fallen world system that he controls—

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Matthew 5:10-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Paul was no stranger to persecution.

2 Corinthians 11:22–27 (NKJV)

²² Are they Hebrews? So *am* I. Are they Israelites? So *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So *am* I. ²³ Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. ²⁴ From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ in journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness...

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

John 15:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you..."

Romans 5:3–4 (NKJV)

³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Each of the words in these verses are critically important to our Christian walk—but the most important word is the word "knowing".

Knowing

"Knowing" is important because *knowledge is the secret to everything else in these verses*. The only reason that Christians *can* rejoice in suffering is because of what we *know* about suffering from God's Word.

Romans 5:3-4 (NKJV)

³ And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that **tribulation** produces **perseverance**; ⁴ and perseverance, **character**; and character, **hope**.

Our English word "**tribulation**" comes from a Latin word *tribulum*.

In Paul's day, a *tribulum* was a heavy piece of timber with spikes in it that was used for threshing the grain. How this worked was that the harvested stalks of grain were laid on the ground and the tribulum was then pulled over them back and forth until the wheat was separated from the chaff.

As we go through tribulations (and depend on God's grace), the trials serve to separate from our lives the '*chaff*'—the unimportant unfruitful distractions that compete with our fruitfulness for Christ (a bout with cancer can really can cause you to reprioritize your whole life etc.).

Perseverance

The word translated "**perseverance**" is *hypomone*—a word that means to "*live under something*."

If we take this word together with the word for **tribulation**, we get the full idea of **perseverance**, which is to—live under difficult circumstances without trying to escape out from under them. We would say it this way—tribulations help us as Christians to *"hang in there!"*

Again, the idea is to not bail when the going gets tough—as it often will in marriage, ministry, or with life in general.

One author put it well—

"This is one thing that separates the immature Christian from the mature one, the new believer tries to avoid trials and sufferings or quickly get out from under them. The mature believer hangs in there like a faithful soldier under fire and doesn't quit his post."

Character

The word in the Greek is *dokime* which has its roots in the word *dokimos*, which means something "tested" or "approved." The term was used for testing precious metals such as silver and gold to increase their purity and value.

When Christians experience tribulations that demand perseverance, that perseverance, in turn, produces in them a *pure faith*—*'proven spiritual character.'*

Peter mentions this in his first epistle—

1 Peter 1:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Just as a metal smith uses intense heat to melt silver and gold ore in order to cleanse them of physical impurities—so does God use tribulations to cleanse His children of spiritual impurities.

1 Peter 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials...

As we just said, sometimes God determines that trials are necessary in a Christian's life—

Warren Wiersbe—

"The phrase "if need be" indicates that there are special times when God knows that we need to go through trials. Sometimes trials discipline us when we have disobeyed God's will (Psalm 119:67). At other times, trials prepare us for spiritual growth, or even help to prevent us from sinning (2 Corinthians 12:1–9). We do not always know the need being met, but we can trust God to know and to do what is best."

So even though God will sometimes allow trials in the lives of His kids, it's important to understand that when it comes to the trials we face as Christians—they are under the total control of God.

Again, Wiersbe says,

[When it comes to trials]...they do not last forever; they are "for a season." When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. If we rebel, He may have

to reset the clock; but if we submit, He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long. The important thing is that we learn the lesson He wants to teach us and that we bring glory to Him alone.

That's not to imply that trials are 'no big deal' and that mature Christians simply take them in stride—Peter said in verse 6 that trials can really 'grieve' us at times.

That same Greek word was used to describe the heaviness and grief the Lord Jesus felt in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before the cross (Matthew 26:37); and the sorrow that believers feel at the death of loved ones (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

To deny that our trials are painful by acting 'super-spiritual' as if, like some kind of spiritual superman, you're impervious to the pain of trials and they just bounce off you—is to be disingenuous and guilty of spiritual pride.

Proverbs 25:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ *Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, And like vinegar on soda, Is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.*

Romans 12:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

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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