

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 10TH - 11TH, 2021 // BOOK OF ROMANS

OBTAINING PEACE (ROMANS 5:1-5)

A TURNING POINT IN ROMANS

"Therefores" mark a shift in Paul's letters. After highlighting faith, Paul is now going to show how God declared His believers righteous while still preserving His integrity and goodness. Paul will present the practical side of salvation.

- **Evil has to be dealt with, so in order for us to be saved, Jesus came as a sacrifice to cancel out the evil of all who repent.**

PEACE FROM HAVING FAITH IN GOD

When we believe in, trust in, obey, and rely on Jesus, we receive peace because we have been saved by God's grace. Peace isn't one benefit of following Jesus, it is the benefit.

- If we have a true sense of peace, all other needs will be met. **Peace is possible when we realize (faith) that God has already won the battle and the end is already written.**

PEACE CAN MEAN SEVERAL THINGS

Peace in this passage means both the internal and external state of one's mind and actions. In this passage the peace we obtain is more about the effects of sin being removed from our lives and us not having to worry about incurring God's wrath.

- **The byproduct is security and comfort because we're reconciled with our Creator.**

THE FALSE PEACE OF THE WORLD

In Paul's time Rome's view of their culture was the Pax Romana, the peace of Rome. Ironically, history tells us just how violent and unethical Rome really was.

- It is very similar to the false narrative today. We claim peace and enlightenment, yet we are more violent, depressed, and broken than we have ever been.

PEACE COMES FROM HAVING ACCESS TO GOD

Without a relationship with God, real lasting peace is impossible. Sin created a distance from God (Gen. 3), but the death of Christ tore the curtain that separated God's people from His presence (Mt. 27).

- **Now anyone at anytime can talk with God and receive peace from that relationship and the Holy Spirit.**

THE TRIALS OF LIFE ACTUALLY HIGHLIGHT OUR PEACE

Just because we are saved by grace through faith doesn't mean that life is free from hardships. We can persevere if we have Christ and His goodness can shine brighter in dark times.

- We can rejoice even in hard times because **affliction produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.**

THIS KIND OF LIFE DOESN'T DISAPPOINT

The Christian life is fulfilling and full of joy even in hard times "because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who was given to us."

- This simply means we are not alone if we don't want to be. **A literal part of God resides and walks with all people that commit to a relationship with Him.**

FOR SINNERS (ROMANS 5:6-11)

"WHILE WE WERE STILL HELPLESS"

The real beauty of Jesus and the Bible is that He died on the cross for us even though He knew how evil humanity had been and would be in the future.

- Jesus took the punishment for His enemies! **This shows the depth of God's love for humanity and the lengths He will go to save us!**

MULTIPLE LEVELS OF SALVATION

Not only are we saved from God's judgment at the end of time, but we are also saved from the debilitating effects of sin and evil in this life.

- There are always consequences for sin, but the Christian can have peace and joy even in the middle of evil cultures. **We are not isolated from evil, but we are insulated by the Holy Spirit.**

SOME PEOPLE WOULD DIE FOR GOOD PEOPLE

Paul says that some people may give up their life for someone they love, but **Jesus demonstrates His love for us by dying for people that have been hostile towards Him or may not ever care about the cross.**

- Jesus even goes further and forgives and "declare[s] righteous" those that accept His sacrifice for them.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE US PERFECT

Though Jesus forgives, justifies (in right standing), and declares us righteous (morally good) **we still have to build a relationship and depend upon God for help because we will make mistakes and have lapses of faith.**

- We must always be pursuing holiness (living by God's standard) through a day-to-day walk with Jesus.

CHANGING COURSE (ROMANS 5:12-21)

GRACE SHOWN IN ADAM AND JESUS

Paul takes us back to Genesis 3 and the story of sin entering into humanity because of one man, Adam.

Through this, death was also introduced and now sin and death affect all people on earth.

- We can blame Adam, but all of us would have eventually fallen short, rebelled, and disobeyed the commands of God.

ALL OF US HAVE SINNED

Paul makes the argument that Adam is the head of the human race and because of his sin, we are all born into a sinful nature.

- This is exactly why Jesus came. Jesus even said to Nicodemus in John 3 that **we must be "born again" because human nature falls short of God's standard.** Therefore we must become children of a 2nd Adam.

"HE IS A TYPE OF THE COMING ONE"

Adam is only like Jesus in the fact that by one action many people were affected (his sin). Similarly, Jesus' one action (the cross) affected many people but in the opposite way.

- V15 essentially says **that by one man's fault evil affects everyone, but by another Man's grace everyone is offered salvation.**

A STUDY IN CONTRASTS

Adam and Jesus represent the contrast of our evil and God's perfect goodness.

- Adam yielded a curse, **Jesus gives us reconciliation and His blessing.**
- Adam yielded condemnation, **Jesus came to justify and free us from condemnation.**
- Adam yielded death, **Jesus offers eternal life with Him forever.**

THIS DOES NOT MEAN UNIVERSALISM

Salvation is offered to everyone, but unfortunately many people will not receive the gift because they will choose to remain in their sinful and broken state.

- Universalism is one of the most common heresies infiltrating the church. **The belief that all people go to heaven regardless of their beliefs and choices is not biblical.**

THE LAW CAME TO MULTIPLY THE TRESPASSES?

The Law is the 10 Commandments. Paul says the giving of the 10 C's to Moses made "trespasses" (sins) multiply.

- The 10 C's didn't make people sin more, they only pointed out what sin was. The point of the 10 C's is to further show that **we are incapable of goodness without a relationship with Jesus.**

A PROPER ESTIMATION OF OURSELVES

- In order to follow God we must admit that we need to be led. In other words, we must come to grips that we are incapable of saving ourselves.
- This is not the culture of our day. We are self-righteous, individualistic, and quite frankly, very arrogant people.

THERE ARE ABSOLUTES

- If we understand that we must be led, then we must understand that we do not dictate what is right and wrong.
- Universalism and relativism have no fellowship with the truth of Jesus. There is an absolute standard by which God calls us to live, and the Word clearly teaches us these principles.

WE MUST LIVE DEPENDENT LIVES

- The good news is that Jesus has already fulfilled the transaction that corrects our mistakes, makes us whole, gives us a sense of worth, and frees us from the effects of evil.
- The good news is that He loves us more than we can imagine and He goes to great lengths to demonstrate that love.

WE MUST LIVE DEPENDENT LIVES

- The key to salvation, both in our everyday lives and in eternity, is living completely dependent on Jesus and trusting Him with every facet of our lives.
- This means our love, joy, peace, fulfillment, value, affirmation, and purpose must come from Him. It means that we understand that only He is enough.