

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

## PEACE WITH GOD (ROMANS 5:1-11)

Paul has proved to us that the whole world is guilty before God, and that no-one can be saved by keeping the law (chapters 1-3a).

- He's explained that God's way of salvation has always been "by grace, through faith", and Abraham was used as an example (chapters 3b-4)
- In chapter 5, we will see the benefits of (vs. 1-11) & the basis for (vs. 12-21) our justification.

## PEACE WITH GOD (VS. 1)

"Therefore..." – we see another shift here as Paul begins to unpack the practical benefits we have of being justified by faith in Jesus.

- "We have peace with God"- because the price has been paid in full by the work of Jesus on the cross, God's justice towards us is forever satisfied. He's not mad at us anymore!
- This is not subjective feeling, but objective reality.

## ACCESS TO GRACE (VS. 2A)

Through faith in Jesus, we have access to the unmerited favor of God.

- This grace in which we "stand" describes not just our starting point in the Christian life, but our continuing attitude.
- We don't start with grace and then go on to perfection and maturity through law.
- Rather, we grow in understanding that God sees us as beautiful, He loves and delights in us, and actually likes us because we're in Christ.

## HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD (VS. 2B)

Peace with God takes care of my past, access to God's grace takes care of my present, and hope of the glory of God takes care of my future.

- If we're in Christ, our story ends with us beholding Him in His glory and being transformed by that glory in a perfect, resurrected body (1 Jn. 3:2).
- We don't have to fear the future- in Christ we're being transformed and remade by the Spirit.

## CHRISTIAN CHARACTER (VS. 3-4)

Just because we're right with God doesn't mean that we don't have trials in this life.

However, it does mean that our suffering brings us closer to, and makes us more like, the Lord.

- Suffering is inescapable, but in Christ it becomes meaningful because it produces something in us.
- Our trials purify us and help us grow.

## CHRISTIAN CHARACTER (VS. 3-4)

Suffering produces "endurance"- endurance is the ability to keep going when you're experiencing no earthly benefit from your faith.

- Endurance produces "character"- character is something that makes you distinct and different. Scars can become redemptive "beauty marks".
- Character produces "hope"- the confidence that God is working all things for good, and one day, He will restore all things in the resurrection.

## GOD'S LOVE INSIDE OF US (VS. 5-8)

As we wait for the hope of the resurrection, the love of God is "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (vs. 5).

- God's love is communicated to us primarily through an experience of the Holy Spirit.
- A lack of awareness of God's love can often be credited to a failure to be constantly filled with and to walk in the Spirit.

Verses 6-8 describe the kind of love that God has shown us in Jesus.

- Sometimes a heroic person might sacrifice their life to save someone else- but imagine someone having so much love that they laid down their life to save a terrorist.
- Who would do something like that? God. And He's done it for you if you're in Christ.

## SALVATION FROM THE WRATH TO COME (VS. 9-10)

If God has justified us with Christ's blood while we were sinners, He will save us from any future judgment (vs. 9).

- If Jesus' death accomplished so much for us, how much more will He do in His life as He intercedes for us in heaven?
- Because He lives, we are eternally saved (Heb. 7:23-25).

## RECONCILIATION WITH GOD (VS. 11)

"Reconciliation" means to make peace or to restore the relationship between two parties that are at odds.

- Humanity declared war on God, and because of this, we deserved to be condemned eternally.
- But God didn't declare war on us! Instead, He sent Jesus as the Peacemaker so we could be reconciled to God.

## HOW PEACE WITH GOD WAS LOST (ROMANS 5:12-14)

### THE SPREAD OF SIN THROUGH THE HUMAN RACE (VS. 12)

This next section of Romans is perhaps one of the more difficult sections theologically.

- The basic idea is that Adam, the first human being ever created, chose to defy God's authority and reject His clear command to avoid the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3).
- Because of that choice, death descended on all people and was "spread".

Even though we weren't physically present with Adam, God regarded Adam's choice to be ours.

- This is a doctrine called, "original sin".
- Original sin teaches that we are not born innocent, but rather we're born with a sin nature.
- Paul is saying that because Adam is the common father of every person on earth; every human who has lived is "in Adam" – this spiritual corruption has been passed down generationally and it explains what's wrong with humanity.

This truth is unpopular, but it's obvious and self-evident - even the smallest child is selfish and angry, and we never have to teach our children to misbehave and sin (that part comes naturally)!

- If babies are sinners, does that mean they go to hell?
- "Age of accountability" doctrine- we know that the children are sanctified by the presence of a believing parent (1 Cor. 7:14), David had assurance that his baby would meet him in heaven (2 Sam. 12:23).

## "BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE SINNERS BECAUSE WE BROKE THE LAW!" (VS. 13-14)

Even before the law was given to humanity, sin was already present in the world (vs. 13).

- Human beings were sinning before God's law revealed that what they were doing was sin against God.
- The law simply made the offenses known and amplified.

Even though the law wasn't present to reveal to humanity that they were sinning, death still reigned (vs. 14).

- The fact that "death reigned from Adam to Moses", even over those who had not sinned in the exact way Adam did, showed that the principle of sin was still at work in every human.
- People die because our very nature has been corrupted by sin.

We're not just sinners by our conscious choices, we're sinners by our very nature.

- Why? Because we were, "born into Adam".
- How do we get fixed? We must be born again into Christ (John 3:3) to receive a new nature.
- Adam is a "type of the one who was to come"- Adam is a picture, a representation of Jesus, in that both Adam and Jesus were completely sinless men from the beginning, and both of them did things that had consequences for all mankind.

## HOW PEACE WITH GOD WAS RECOVERED (ROMANS 5:15-21)

### ADAM'S OFFENSE VS. CHRIST'S FREE GIFT (VS. 15)

Because of Adam's trespass, many died; and because of Christ's obedience, the grace of God abounds to many and brings life.

- Just as Adam's choice brought sin and death to all people; Jesus gave a free gift that had consequences for the entire human race.
- Christ conquered death and one day will raise the bodies of all who have died in Christ.

### THE EFFECT OF ADAM'S SIN & CHRIST'S OBEDIENCE (VS. 16)

Adam's sin brought judgment and condemnation, but Jesus' work on the cross brings justification.

- When Adam sinned, he was declared unrighteous and condemned.
- But when a sinner trusts Christ, he is declared righteous and free from condemnation.
- Someone justified in Christ is no longer under the effect of Adam's choice.

### TWO "REIGNS" CONTRASTED (VS. 17)

We can think of both Adam and Jesus as "kings" that both "reign".

- Under Adam, death reigned because of his sin.
- But under Jesus, we can enter into a new kingdom under His reign.
- Under Jesus' reign we reign with Him in receiving (it must be a conscious choice of ours) an "abundance of grace" and the free gift of righteousness.

### TWO "ACTS" CONTRASTED (VS. 18-19)

Paul contrasts Adam's trespass that led to the condemnation of all people with Jesus' obedience that leads to life and justification for all people.

- We are born identified with Adam, but we can be born again into identification with Jesus!
- That's why we must be born again! It's not enough to just have religion, we need a supernatural change of nature.

### LAW VS. GRACE (VS. 20-21)

"The law came in to increase the trespass"- the law doesn't justify us, and law doesn't make us sinners - our very nature is what makes us sinners.

- What's the purpose of the law then? The law makes our sin clearer and greater by contrasting it with God's holy standard.
- The law also causes sin to increase in that it draws clear lines between right & wrong that our sinful hearts naturally want to break.

"But where sin increased, grace abounded all the more"- God's love is so amazing that His grace showed up in all the places where we would've expected His wrath.

- Some people fear that where "grace reigns", there will be a disregard for holiness and a casual attitude towards sin, but Paul makes it clear that real grace reigns through, "righteousness leading to eternal life" (vs. 21).

### ACCESS (VS. 2)