

Lesson 26 - IN HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD *Romans 5:1-5*

(5:1) - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: - **“Peace with God”** was accomplished and established by the Lord Jesus Christ **“through the blood of His cross”** (*Col. 1:20*). Christ is identified in the Bible as the King Who **“shall reign in righteousness”** (*Isa. 32:1*) and the **“Prince of peace”** (*Isa. 9:6*). He is the one by whom peace comes from God to His people (*Luke 2:14*). God is reconciled (at peace with) to sinners on the ground of Christ’s righteousness imputed to them (*2 Cor. 5:17-19*), and sinners are commanded in the Gospel promise to be reconciled unto God on this same ground (*2 Cor. 5:20-21*). By nature, we are all enemies of God and at enmity with God by our wicked works (*Rom. 8:7-8; Col. 1:21-23*). We need to understand that this natural enmity holds true not only in the case of the avowed atheists but also in the case of religious people who seek to approach God and find peace with Him on the ground of their works, dedication, and wills. Such people may imagine they are at peace with God, but it is a false peace. They may find preachers who will cry peace to them, but their peace is a lie (*Jer. 6:14; 8:11*). Any feeling or claim of peace with God not founded upon Christ and His righteousness alone is a refuge of lies.

To be **“justified by faith,”** then, is to be justified before God based on what God promised to Abraham and to all who are given the same faith that God gave to Abraham - the merits of Christ’s blood and righteousness imputed. Christ is received by sinners when God gives them faith to believe **“unto righteousness”** (*Rom. 10:10*), as **“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth”** (*Rom. 10:4*). There is no other ground or foundation of peace between God and sinners, but that which is found solely in Christ based upon His righteousness alone. This is **“the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,”** that **“shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”** (*Php. 4:7*). This is why the Gospel of God in Christ is called **“the Gospel of peace”** (*Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15*). This is the peace that brings true godly assurance because it is found only in and by the Lord Jesus Christ (*Isa. 32:17-20*). The main way that God’s people are to be peacemakers by preaching and witnessing Christ to the world (*Matt. 5:9*), and this kind of peacemaking brings persecution and reproach from the world (*Matt. 5:10-11*).

(5:2) - “By Whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” - It is clear that the apostle wanted to emphasize that salvation and peace with God comes to sinners through a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, and by His work as the Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer of His people. Our whole salvation is to be attributed to Christ and Him alone. Our **“access” “into this grace wherein we stand”** is all due to the finished work of Christ as **“this grace”** reigns through Him Who is our righteousness (*Rom. 5:21*). It is communicated to us through the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit (*Rom. 1:16-17*), and we enter into this state of grace by God-given, Holy-Spirit wrought faith which receives Christ and submits to Him as our only righteousness before God. This shows the necessity of a clear understanding of the Gospel that identifies God as both a just God and a Savior and the ground upon which God will receive sinners. We must be reconciled to God based on the righteousness of Christ (*2 Cor. 5:20-21*).

“And rejoice in hope of the glory of God” - As believers, we are justified sinners and have no reason to conceal our boast of being heirs of glory according to God’s promise based on the imputed righteousness of Christ. We stand firm in this state of grace and nothing can remove us from it. We rejoice (boast) in the certain expectation of final glorification because God has engaged His glory to insure it. The beginning of our confidence and hope of salvation rested wholly on the Person and work of Jesus Christ, our Surety and Representative (*Heb. 3:6*). If our hope is based on the glory of God, it is a good and sure hope. Our hope is based

upon that ground which enables Him to be just and Justifier. We are never to have confidence in the flesh (in our obedience) at any time (*Gal. 6:14*).

(5:3)– “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations knowing that tribulation worketh patience” - “Tribulations” refer to the troubles believers experience while in this world (*Job 5:7; 14:1; John 16:33; Rom. 8:36*). These bring sorrow, grief, and suffering for the people of God. When Paul says we **“glory in tribulations,”** it is not that we enjoy or even boast in these bitter experiences in themselves. We **“glory”** (boast) in the glorious truth that these tribulations will not cause us to lose our salvation or separate us from the love of God in Christ (*Rom. 8:35-39*). They will neither diminish God's favor nor disturb the peace that we have with God through Christ. We **“glory in tribulations”** only as they reveal and strengthen our faith and assurance in the Lord Jesus Christ, and **“worketh patience”** (i.e. causes us to endure or persevere in the faith) (*Heb. 12:1-2, 11-14*). These **“tribulations”** show us more and more our own sinfulness, weakness, and need for the sovereign and powerful grace of God in Christ. They show us how much we need His righteousness for our whole salvation and eternal security (*Rom. 7:24-25; 2 Cor. 4:6-11*). This continually drives us to Christ and value Him more and more.

(5:4) - “And patience, experience; and experience, hope:” - Persevering in faith, looking to Christ for all salvation, works **“experience.”** The word translated **“experience”** means proof or evidence. The genuineness of our faith in Christ is proven by our continually looking to and resting in Christ for all salvation and righteousness. This is true growth **“in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”** (*2 Pet. 3:18*). As we see our sinfulness and weakness more and more, we see Christ's glory, power, and love more and more. We see our need of Him more and more. We suffer with Him as adopted children resting on His righteousness according to God's promise. This proves our state as justified sinners who walk by faith. This is evidence that we have no confidence in the flesh, but rejoice in Christ. This our assurance and hope, which is our certain expectation of all blessedness based on the righteousness of Christ alone. We will grieve and sorrow in tribulation but not as those who have no hope (*1 Thess. 4:14; Heb. 12:7-11*).

(5:5) - “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us” - As true believers we have a **“good hope through grace”** (*2 Thess. 2:16; cf. Psalm 31:24; Lam. 3:26*), because we trust and stand in Christ alone for our whole salvation. This **“hope”** is the certain expectation of being saved, preserved, and glorified based on the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. As we stand in Christ, we cannot be disappointed or **“ashamed”** (*Rom. 9:33*). To be **“ashamed”** is to be found at the final judgment without Christ. It is to be legally exposed to God's judgment and wrath because of not having been forgiven by His blood and clothed in His righteousness imputed. Any hope not founded upon the grace of God in Christ will leave sinners ashamed when they stand before God at Judgment (*Matt. 7:21-23*). When God the Holy Spirit reveals the Gospel to us, gives us spiritual life, and brings us to know how God saves sinners by His grace in Christ, He then sheds **“abroad in our hearts”** the love of God as demonstrated by the finished work of Christ on the cross to save us from our sins (*1 John 4:10*). We see then that both our justification before God AND the powerful work of the Holy Spirit within us are due to the righteousness that Christ worked out for us and which God has imputed to us. Herein we have peace with God, and God is glorified in every attribute of His character. This is a good hope!