

### Scriptures for Today: Romans 5:1-5 – Access by faith into grace; the love of God in believers

#### Title of Today's Message: Pathway to Hope – *The Christian's road to spiritual maturity.*

#### INTRODUCTION

Last time in our study of Romans, we saw how God used Abraham as the example for all as to what kind of **FAITH** God is looking for to save your soul and practically to trust Him on a daily basis with all of life's decisions. Today, we move forward into Romans 5 with truth that is relevant to every disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. As believers, we rejoice in the **HOPE** and truth that we now have peace with God. Amen? And, we rejoice in the truth that we have **ACCESS BY FAITH** into the **GRACE** of God wherein we now stand. Amen? I mean, what a thought that is!! Yet, for the disciple of Jesus Christ, God has so much more in store for us. As we learned last week, God does not want to **JUST** save you. He wants you to **GROW** through His Word and as a member of His church so that you will fulfill the **PLAN** that He has for your life! And, the path to godly growth and maturity as a disciple of Jesus Christ is going to **include** the God-ordained **TRAINING** of tribulations and life difficulties. That is the truth we learn in the beginning of this chapter in the Bible. The kind of hope that God wants to give us is found at the end of an often-difficult road of life. Yet, the glorious truth of the Bible is that we will find hope there because the **LOVE** of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given to us at salvation.

#### PREACHING NOTES

##### 1. Salvation by faith **ALONE** in Jesus Christ brings **justification** and **peace with God**. Vs. 1

Romans 5:10 *"For if, when we were ENEMIES, we were **reconciled to God by the death of his Son**"*

John 3:36 *"He that believeth on the Son **HATH** everlasting life: and he that believeth **NOT** the Son **shall not see life**; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

NOTE The glorious truth of Romans 5:1 is that through Christ we can be pardoned of all of our crimes against Almighty God by faith in Christ alone! What a glorious thought that as sure as the wrath of God was hanging over us while we were yet sinners, the wrath has been pacified by Jesus Christ who suffered for us that might be free!

APPLY Do you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ? If yes, then today is a day to rejoice in Christ! If no, then today is the day to surrender your life to Christ.

##### 2. Through faith, we gain **access** into God's **eternal GRACE** and **rejoice** in **hope** of His glory. Vs. 2

John 10:7-9 *"Then said Jesus unto them...I am **THE DOOR** of the sheep ... I am **THE DOOR: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**"*

Ephesians 2:18 *"For through him we both have **ACCESS by one Spirit** unto the Father."*

Hebrews 10:19 *"Having therefore, brethren, **boldness TO ENTER into the holiest of all** by the blood of Jesus"*

NOTE Believers ought to sing as we have been granted access **DIRECTLY** to God the Father and His glorious throne! We should be rejoicing and glorying daily in our heavenly Hope and the blessings given to us in Christ! Through adoption, we can come to God daily and have eternal security in His precious promises and all sufficient grace.

- APPLY How has direct access to God changed your life? Do you come boldly to His throne to find grace to help in time of trouble? God's grace is sufficient for us. Are you asking for it? Do you rejoice daily in Christ your Hope? Do you look for His return?
3. We **glory ALSO** in **tribulations** KNOWING they work to bring **patience** and **experience**. Vs. 3-4
- Philippians 1:29 *"For unto you IT IS GIVEN in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also TO SUFFER for his sake;"*
- James 1:2,3 *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; KNOWING THIS, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."*
- 2 Corinth 4:17 *"For our light affliction, which is BUT FOR A MOMENT, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"*
- 2 Corinth 1:4 *"Blessed be God ... the God of all comfort ... Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO COMFORT THEM which are in any TROUBLE, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."*
- NOTE We are to rejoice during life's difficult times because God has a reason for it – our spiritual maturity. As we experience trouble and come through it with God's help, we will grow. Through experience, we learn what to do and what **not** to do. It means we have gone through failures and successes. We must trust God always. The patience found in brokenness and humility and the experiences learned will make us more effective ministers for our Lord Jesus Christ and reveal more of Him!
- APPLY God is not in a hurry about things. We must slow down! What tribulations has God allowed in your life? Remember, He is in control of all life events. Will you trust Him? This too will pass. The key is to LEARN from the experiences. What is God teaching you? Allow Him to change you through storms so you can comfort others.
4. Unshakeable **hope** is the result as the **LOVE** of God is **transforms us** by the Holy Spirit. Vs. 5
- 2 Timothy 1:12 *"For the which cause I also SUFFER these things: nevertheless I AM NOT ASHAMED: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."*
- Romans 8:28 *"And WE KNOW that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to HIS PURPOSE."*
- 1 John 3:17 *"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth THE LOVE OF GOD in him?"*
- NOTE This hope that comes after trusting God through life's trials is what is described by Paul. Being persuaded and committing your life and soul to the One who saved you is the result! We must KNOW and TRUST God to work all things for His glory. His plan for our lives will unfold as we trust Him in the storms. His LOVE will also be displayed to the world THROUGH US as His Spirit shines through our broken lives!
- APPLY Every Christian has available "the love of God" in him to give away to others. Our goal as believers is to bear fruit for God's glory. Are you sharing the love of God with all those God has put in your life daily? Are you cold and uncompassionate? Love is a choice, not a feeling. Communicate God's love to others through the Gospel, the Word, **and** through your charitable time, actions, words, and resources.