

New Outline

- I. Romans 5:1-5 **Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]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.**
 - a. *Therefore, having been justified by faith*- This sentence links directly back to chapter 4 which pastor Todd covered last week and as a quick refresher
 - b. So when this text says **Justified by faith** speaks of a *legal decree*. And if you were to look back at parts of Romans chapter one up through part of chapter 3 Paul shows how all of us are guilty before the court of God's law, God's glory, and our conscience. Then Paul explained how because of what Jesus did, the righteousness of God is given to all who believe. The guilty sentence is transformed into a sentence of **justified**, and **justified by faith**.
 - c. So we are a justified by faith and here's what comes from that
- II. **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****
 - a. So we have peace with God, we live a life standing in grace- without Christ most of us would be living inwardly in the fetal position in shame but now we live standing in grace.
 1. I had a friend who came to Christ a hot mess. And for the first year at church during worship she was always on the floor, on her face, just wrecked by God's mercy.
 - a. It was so beautiful
 - b. But then 2 of us came and told her...stand
 - ii. WHY did God tell us to tell her it was time to stand?
 - iii. When we stand in grace we are showing off God's mercy.
 1. Living in shame does not bring Him glory for what He accomplished on the cross
 2. Standing in grace does
- III. **Grace We Stand Cont'd...**
- IV. 1 Timothy 1:15 ¹⁵This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.
 - i. This is standing in grace. And when we stand in grace, it preaches the gospel to the lost. There's hope for all of us.
- V. We have peace, we stand in grace in the Lord's presence, fully one with Him, and we REJOICE IN HOPE OF THE **GLORY OF GOD**

- a. There is a day, a date, an appointed time where each one of us will stand before the Lord in our incorruptible and immortal bodies and behold the glory of God like never before
- b. Our physical bodies now cannot withstand the glory of God so we get snippets here and there of glory
- c. And we rejoice in those snippets we receive here knowing the fullness that's coming
- d. And that glory is so great that Paul says-

VI. Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us

- a. For Paul...his suffering included multiple imprisonments and those prisons there's no beds, they're overcrowded, the chains are painful, 5 times he received 39 lashings meaning he was whipped 195 times, 3 times he was beaten with thick birch wood rods, he was stoned so badly he was dragged out of the city and assumed dead, shipwrecked, thorn in his side that wouldn't go away, you name it he went through it
 - i. And yet this man says none of that even COMPARES to the glory coming
 - ii. We are reading the words of a man who knew before his death, he had such deep revelation from just the tastes of glory he beheld in his corruptible body that what was coming could not be compared to the lashings, the beatings, the hunger and cold
 - iii. He not only was someone who did not complain, who did not blame, but his attitude was eh- doesn't even compare to what's coming. He was so aware of the pleasure of God's glory.
 - iv. DO you want that revelation? Well let me tell you his revelation came at a cost.

VII. Okay so back to Romans 5

- a. ³ And not only that (not only do we rejoice in the hope of the Glory of God), but we also rejoice in our tribulations knowing that tribulation produces ^[b]perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, ^[c]character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
- b. Paul is giving us the "secret sauce" to how he could be a man of such great suffering and yet truly believe the suffering is NOTHING compared to the glory coming. And there's actual weight and authority behind his words because of all he lived through.

VIII. Let's talk about suffering or tribulation as some translations say

- a. Great adversity, pressure, affliction, distress, anguish
- b. John 16:33 In the world you will have tribulation

IX. Different Types of Tribulation or Suffering, because some of the Types Paul is not referring to in this passage

- a. Suffering from Personal Sin
 - 1. You murder someone and are sent to prison

- 2. You lie to a loved one and trust needs to rebuilt
 - 3. You cut corners at work and get fired
 - ii. So when Paul says rejoice in your suffering, the suffering of personal sin is not what we're talking about- you're not meant to keep on sinning and rejoicing over it. God doesn't want you suffering, He wants to set you free from it!
 - b. And I also want to mention that the suffering from personal sin Those things are not God punishing you, they really are just natural consequences.
 - c. So if your car breaks down don't be thinking Oh this is God punishing me because I yelled at my co-worker yesterday. God isn't watching and waiting to inflict something bad on you every time you miss the mark.
 - d. And I used to think that. In fact, I remember- growing up..if I was going through some kind of physical pain which seemed to happen most often at the orthodontist, when they were ripping out or installing some torture device in my mouth (which I'm thankful for now) but at time time when I was laying there in pain I would actually think to myself- This is God paying me back for every bad thing I've ever done in life. Which is silly right?
 - e. Because Jesus **bore** all the wrath and punishment of our sin on the cross. He's not out to get us. He's in the save, heal, and deliver business. Let's not get that confused
- X. Generational Sin
- a. These are sins in the family line that were never repented of and covered by the blood of Jesus, so they essentially opened doors in your bloodline and may have caused you to suffer because of it
 - i. It also may have caused you to come into agreement w/it along the way- like oh everyone in my family is angry, or negative, or depressed so that's just how I am. And that's also not what we rejoice in- we're not rejoicing over the sin in our bloodline causing us to suffer.
 - ii. And unfortunately, *Because* Western Christianity somewhere along the way mostly stopped addressing generational sin there's kind of a backup or a build up right now. And we see many people suffering right?
 - iii. And God doesn't want that either. He wants every door to sin in your family line that was opened to be shut and covered by the blood of His son and for you to walk in freedom. That can be a process but do not give up on it. Your breakthrough is coming.
- XI. There is suffering for having faith in Jesus Christ which IS something Paul refers to
- a. We see as examples- the disciples experienced imprisonment, exile, and beatings specifically for preaching Christ's death and resurrection- because of their faith
 - b. These very things (imprisonment, exile, beatings) are still happening today internationally. When I was in Turkey, my team and I stayed with a believer in Istanbul whose file at the police department was this thick. In fact the police pulled us over in his car before we could enter his house for the first time and he was like

“yea I’m constantly being thrown in prison. (and he smiled) But the gospel is worth it!”

- c. And in more recent years, persecution is spreading even in places we wouldn’t expect. Even silently praying in the wrong place is getting some of our brothers and sisters overseas arrested. But that won’t stop the gospel will it.
- d. The thing we deal with here in the states is probably more of the mocking spirit for our faith, however, under extreme pressure we saw during Covid the government told us not to worship, not to gather at church, churches were shut down and that’s something most of us thought would never happen here. But it did. So while we don’t know what’s ahead exactly- we’ve already seen the freedom of religion threatened even here. Nothing to fear. But we are aware.

XII. And then there’s the None of the Above Suffering

- a. Not tied to generational sin, not personal sin. Not for preaching the gospel. But it is something Paul is referring to in this scripture. Examples of this type of suffering could include Job, or you could look at Joseph being wrongfully accused and thrown in prison while he was just doing his job, but I felt the Lord highlighting the story of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.. Because there are some details in her account that I think the Lord wants to highlight today.

b. Let’s go to Luke 1

c. **5** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. **7** But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years..

- i. So we have Zechariah who is a priest and he is married to one of the daughters of Aaron. Aaron was the first high priest to Israel
- ii. This is a power couple of all power couples
- iii. And the text wants to make it very clear that Zechariah and Elizabeth were God fearing people, adding in details like walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
- iv. And then comes the but. But they had no child

1. It doesn’t say they were blameless and without child. It’s they were blameless BUT. It’s like saying yea they’re great buuuut...Indicating something is off. Because for God’s people those two things normally don’t go together: being obedient to God and being barren. I’ll read portions of the Old Testament to give context

- d. **Deuteronomy 28:1-4, 11**: "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands... the fruit of your womb will be blessed...".
- e. **Exodus 23:25-26**: "Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water... None will miscarry or be barren in your land".
- f. **Psalms 128:1-3**: "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him... **Your wife** will be like a fruitful vine within your house”.

- g. That verse may have been especially painful for Zechariah and Elizabeth Remember verse 7 **But they had no child because Elizabeth was barren. And they were both well advanced in years.** So Year after year, decade after decade, Elizabeth was barren- her life just didn't look fruitful or blessed in that way, and then what the text is implying is that she eventually entered into menopause so she was barren and then she was really barren.
 - i. That's very characteristic of God to create a situation that is impossible for man to fix
 - h. So what did Zechariah do, he prayed the desire. He asked. He waited. And he was met with silence on that topic for decades. No explanation. No promise that a child was coming. Which sounds harsh maybe but God was drawing something forth out of Zechariah and Elizabeth. And then finally the moment came. An angel finally appears to Zechariah in his old age and says verse 13 **"Do not be afraid Zechariah for your prayer has been heard** (did you know the name Zechariah means Yahweh remembers? Amazing right. That's what his name meant, and that's what his life speaks) So the angel says **Do not be afraid Zechariah for your prayer has been heard your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son."**
 - i. So for decades, Zechariah and Elizabeth lived with unexplainable barrenness. Which is hard when you have a desire to have children. But what they went through was much heavier than that. And we know it because of one little line in the story found in verse 24.
 - j. Luke 1:24 Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, 25 "Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my **reproach** among people."
 - i. So not only was Elizabeth barren all those years, without a promise from the Lord to hang on to or to explain why she was barren, but it says the people around her held her in reproach. That word means she was shamed, disapproved of, criticized. People probably wondered *what hidden sin are you not repenting of? What is wrong with you?*
 - ii. And it wasn't until Jesus came on to the scene that God's people began to understand it's not always generational or personal sin that's the root. There was a moment when the disciples came across a blind man and they asked- Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind? That reveals the thinking at the time- there are only two options. And what does Jesus say back to them? He says neither. Neither this man nor his parents sinned BUT that the works of God should be revealed in him."
 - iii. But for Elizabeth that kind of understanding wasn't there yet. And so she was held in reproach. Shamed. Criticized. Disapproved. And barren.
- XIII. Trials and tribulations, suffering, those times reveal your deepest beliefs about God and who He really is to you.

- a. So what did Zechariah and Elizabeth reveal about their beliefs in God while they lived through this reproach from people, while they lived with this desire that went unanswered and unfulfilled for decades?
- XIV. **They revealed that the Lord is still worthy.** They revealed that they would remain completely devoted in word and in deed. Zechariah continued serving the Lord as priest year after year, Elizabeth faithfully by his side. Righteous. Devoted. Blameless.
- a. They dug their heels in. They said we are not changing course. We will serve Him all the days of our lives. Through every season. Through any confusion or pain. We live for Him.
- XV. So because tribulation produces perseverance, and perseverance character, and character hope then you better believe Zechariah and Elizabeth became two of the most hope filled people by the time they conceived. And what were they so hopeful about? They were filled with hope of the coming Messiah. Jesus was their hope. The Savior of their people coming to redeem them.
- XVI. Listen to what happens next. When Elizabeth is six months pregnant with John, Mary, who had just conceived Jesus, went to see Elizabeth.
- a. ³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
- i. So we see that Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit- and then she spoke with a *loud voice*
1. Do you see the progression of Elizabeth in this story? She went from being a woman held in reproach by those around her, yet still clinging to her God and serving Him year after year, a woman who hid away for five months after conceiving just to take in what the Lord had done in her and then all of a sudden she comes out of that FILLED with the Holy Spirit, and she gets loud for who? For Jesus.
- XVII. Look what happens to her husband. Verse 67 it says "then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit" and he began to prophesy and said "⁶⁸ Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and redeemed his people. ⁶⁹ He has sent us a mighty Savior."
- XVIII. They became mouth pieces- in fact they were the first two people outside of Mary and Joseph to declare this baby is the savior come to earth.
- XIX. Do you see how suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Zechariah and Elizabeth paved the way for you to understand this. Their lives spoke this.
- XX. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- XXI. When you are hoping that Christ will be glorified in you- when you allow Christ to come into your situation as Living Hope, and experience Holy Spirit pouring the love of God into your heart- not trickling but pouring, no one will be able to stop your rejoicing no matter what you are facing.
- a. The Lord is looking for those kinds mouthpieces, a people whose faith has been refined by fire. A people whose words about Christ hold weight.
 - i. When you are walking through a trial, the person whose words hold the most weight for you, other than Holy Spirit Himself, is one who has walked through that same trial and allowed Christ to form them through it
 1. Think about it. If you lost a parent at a young age and everyone around you who hadn't lost a parent tried to comfort you, it doesn't hold weight like someone else who also walked through that.
 2. And it doesn't mean we go looking for suffering in order to gain authority, but when it comes, because some form of tribulation will, you can rejoice knowing God will not waste it.
- XXII. Never pity a believer walking through trials with Jesus.
- a. Because that believer's faith is being refined like gold through that trial,
 - b. that believer is gaining authority in that area,
 - c. that believer is being transformed into the image and nature of Christ through that trial.
 - d. That believer is being shaped into a trustworthy carrier of a high calling. And one day their lives will be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Christ Jesus. Do not pity them.
- XXIII. Lastly, I just want to read Scripture over you. Feel free to open your hands and receive the strength of Christ and His Hope, Jesus, our living Hope into every facet of your life. May these scriptures go forth to the very place where you have been struggling. Where there has been pain. Defeat. Disappointment. Grief. Where pain the pain has felt chronic.
- XXIV. I Peter 1:6-9 ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- XXV. 2 Corinthians 4:7 ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies
- XXVI. Lastly Romans 8:35 ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ^{verse 37} ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am

sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

XXVII. Let us take out the Lord's communion.

XXVIII. use every bit of our life story for Your glory Lord

Small Group Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 1: 3-5 and discuss the anointing that comes to comfort others when we experience suffering.
2. Have you ever been comforted by someone who suffered in the same area as you? Or have you ever comforted someone else?
3. Discuss the differences between believers and non-believers in suffering. What is the hope we cling to? Re-read Romans 5:3-5.
4. Ask if anyone in the group needs prayer to increase hope in a specific area of their life.