

Romans 5:1-5 “But Wait There’s More”

Today we are really coming to the beginning of what I guess I would label as a turning point in the book of Romans and because we are limited on time we are just going to be looking at the first 5 verses of this incredible chapter of the Bible.

Let’s recap for a few minutes so we can just have the foundation of what we are looking at established. If you remember beginning in chapter 1:18 and going all the way through Romans 3:20 Paul was speaking to those in Rome that he was writing and letting them know that all of humanity has a huge problem and that problem is that all of us no matter who we are or where we came from are found to be sinners.

And because we are sinners we are deserving of the wrath of God...You and I deserve to be separated from God forever because we have fallen short of His perfect standards. Paul spent those chapters exposing all of humanity and really showing us that when God looks at our account as a righteous Judge that we would be found guilty on all counts. We have no hope, we are alienated from God, we can’t come near Him, when we die we are deserving of hell.

And then in Romans 3:21-22 Paul said this ²¹ **But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,** ²² **even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.** After laying out that we are all in need of a Savior, Paul then begins to speak of how having faith in Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the cross has now made us righteous.

This wasn't some new made up truth that Paul was presenting but instead it was witnessed to by the Law and the Prophets...If you remember we have said that all of the Old Testament was pointing us to the fact that one day there would be a Savior and that you and I needed to be saved.

You and I if you recall are justified or declared as right before the Father because Jesus has paid the price for our sins and once you and I place our faith in Jesus His righteousness is then applied to our account...Jesus was said to have ransomed us or paid the price that we could go free.

And then last week as we looked at chapter 4 we looked at two different examples from the Old Testament of those that found themselves right with God outside of the law as they followed the Lord by faith.

First we had Abraham and we talked about how the Lord made some incredible promises to this man as God took him outside and said count the stars if you can for this is how many descendants you are going to have and Abraham said "well Lord, how can this be since I don't have a son to pass these things along to" and the Lord said "One day you will have one that will come from your own body" meaning Abraham and his wife would have a son...and Abraham we are told in Genesis 15:6 believed God and God accounted it to him for righteousness.

And then we had David and David if you remember had committed two great sins in his life...The sin of adultery and then murder and both of these are capital offenses meaning there was no provision in the law that one could make themselves right with God...The sentence for

anyone caught in this was death...and yet God forgave David, God graciously ministered to him and worked in him in a big way letting him know that his sins would not be imputed or placed upon his account.

Both of these men walked by faith and found they were right with God by faith and not by works. It was never about keeping the law and it was never about being circumcised and so it is for you and I.

You and I are saved by faith as we trust in the payment that Jesus made upon the cross for the sins of humanity...As we believe we are justified or seen as if we had never sinned...If you are in Christ then your sin account has been taken care of and you are seen as right with God.

And that is incredible news for you and I.

Let's look at verse 1 of our text in Romans 5 which says

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, When we see that word therefore in the Bible it's almost like the writer is saying "Because of these things" that were written before. Specifically in this case Paul is saying because we are seen as if we had never sinned because of our faith in Jesus...**AND BECAUSE OF THAT we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

I want you to understand that in Christ there are a multitude of benefits...Yes we are saved from our sins and given the promise of eternity with God but that's not where the blessings end. For homework I want to just encourage you to read Ephesians 1 and

maybe just meditate on the blessings that are found in that chapter of the Bible.

Knowing Jesus and being saved by Him is not just something we enter into when we die **but instead knowing Jesus has all kinds of benefits we can walk in NOW**. I think this is a truth that many miss out on as they go through life...They can have the thought that they are good with God and now I can just live how I want and that's all there is to it and one day I'll wake up in heaven end of story.

That's totally not the truth and this morning in just these 5 verses we will see multiple benefits that come from receiving Jesus Christ by faith.

The first big benefit we see here from knowing Jesus by faith is that there is peace between us and God...How many of you have ever had a big brother or a younger brother and the two of you were wrestling around and one of you got the upper hand on the other and whoever was winning said a phrase that we have all probably heard...**It's the phrase "SAY UNCLE"** and when someone says those words the battle is over and someone is going to be the victor and someone is going to be the loser.

Before you and I came to Jesus there was an all-out war for our souls...You and I before we came to Christ by faith were living for ourselves, we did what we wanted, we lived as we thought was best...as we did so our loving heavenly Father was fighting for us and really the victory was paid for by Jesus but you and I had to come to that place of brokenness where we surrendered our lives to Jesus and His love.

I can remember in my own life that there was a large battle that was taking place...There was a big part of me that just wanted to go my own way and there was another part of me that was constantly in war with myself...My conscience was always bothering me and I know now that this was the love of God trying to get my attention but I fought my mind and my heart for a long time.

But the moment I came to Jesus, the moment I said “UNCLE” and gave my heart to the Lord I found that I had a peace with God...I can remember that when I first came to Jesus that for the first time in many years the war in my mind and heart were over...Jesus had won the war that raged within my heart.

I'm so thankful that I now have PEACE with God and that this peace is not something I have to work for but instead I simply need to stand in His love and stand in His truth.

There is a saying that goes like this “K-N-O-W Jesus K-N-O-W Peace, N-O Jesus N-O peace” I like that for I know in my heart it is certainly true...Without Jesus in my life I would have no peace with God and the war would continue for my soul.

I might add that there is no where else to find peace with God but through Jesus. The world tries to soothe itself with all kinds of thoughts, beliefs and ideas but none can satisfy the soul but coming to Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus said this to a woman at a well in John 4:13-14 when He said ¹³Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give

him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” You can drink and partake of the wells that this world offers but you will find it never truly satisfies...But come to Jesus and drink of the life giving waters that He offers us spiritually and you will never thirst again.

So benefit number 1...Peace with God through faith in Jesus. Look at verse 2 which says ²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Benefit #2 that we have before us here is that we have **ACCESS by FAITH into this GRACE that we STAND**. One of the great benefits you and I have is that we have access to the Father.

Think about the simple fact that before you came to know Jesus you had zero access to the Father. I mean you could never stand before Him in your pre-Christ life...But now through faith in Jesus you can regularly enter the presence of the Father.

One of the scriptures that best illustrates the access to the Father that is available through Jesus Christ was when Jesus was on the cross and as the Lord died just listen to what we are told in Matthew 27:50-51 which say ⁵⁰And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

⁵¹Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, Now the veil of the temple was a thick curtain that was found between the holy place where the priests would regularly enter and what is called the holy of holies which represented the very holiness and presence of

God...And the only person that could enter that special room called the holy of holies was the high priest and he only did so once a year on what is called the day of atonement and they would come in and splatter blood on the mercy seat...but you and I if we wanted to enter that room could never do so.

When Jesus died that curtain or veil was torn from top to bottom and it signified that in Christ and through Christ anyone that wanted access to the throne room of God could enter...It signified that humanity could now have a relationship with the Father.

Hebrews 4:14-16 says this of believers...it says ¹⁴**Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.** ¹⁵**For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.** ¹⁶**Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.** So because of Jesus we can have regular access to the throne of grace.

That's an interesting thing to think about isn't it? That as we enter the Father's presence grace is given freely and abundantly and I don't know about you but I'm so thankful that in Jesus there is grace not to just save me when I come to Him but there is grace that I can stand in...Grace is to receive that which we cannot earn, it is to receive the riches of God that Jesus has paid for...Grace is not just for the day of salvation but you and I can STAND in grace on a regular basis.

We have access to an endless supply of the grace of God in our lives. I think this is a good reminder for us that we came to Jesus by grace through faith and we must remain in that place of standing in His

grace through faith. Remember Paul earlier in Romans said “the just shall live faith to faith” We come by faith, we remain by faith and we enter into glory by faith!

And then notice benefit number three that is found in verse 2 as well as it tells us that we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God...I don't know about you but when I came to Jesus one of the great benefits I discovered is that I knew that one day the glory of Jesus was going to come forth and make all things right.

You and I have a hope not just for today but a hope for a much better and brighter future tomorrow. Romans 8:19-21 speaks of the hope of glory that resides within us when it says this ¹⁹**For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.** ²⁰**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;** ²¹**because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

I want to ask you today what is it that you rejoice in? Do you rejoice in the things of this world, do you find your hope in the here and now or do you truly look forward to the day that the glory of Jesus is revealed? You know sometimes I think we get our priorities in life all out of whack.

As we come to our fourth benefit I have to say that Paul is just being real as he speaks of the benefits of our faith...I wish that when we came to Jesus that all our troubles and our trials would just come to an end. That would sure be awesome to just see that victory has been won and you and I could just cruise through life...The reality is though that you and I will face troubles as we go through life...Listen to what

Jesus said to His disciples in John 16:33 when He said ³³These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” In Jesus is found peace with God and peace within ourselves but in this world there will be tribulations and that’s what Paul speaks of in verses 3-4 which say ³And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

I think often times when we think of trials we think No thanks and choose someone else Lord but here we are reminded that in the trials that will inevitably come as we go through life that if we are in Jesus by faith that there are benefits that come.

That word tribulation means “a Pressing” and so it is as we are pressed and crushed by numerous trials that come into our lives. We are told here that we are to glory in tribulations for the simple fact that good things come for those who are in Christ.

Before we knew Jesus trials and tribulations that came upon us in life left us with no hope, they left us frustrated and struggling and looking for answers but as we walk with Jesus we through the trials of life are told here that perseverance is produced.

We all need to learn how to persevere in faith as we go through life...Persevering and learning how to do so might best be understood by those who play sports or train for marathons...You must train your body to be able to withstand the struggles of running if you are going to succeed. I haven’t run much in my life but when I did run a little you

had to build up your endurance little by little and you had to persevere when things got difficult.

In Jesus you and I can find strength and peace in our times of trouble. Have you ever experienced the peace of God that goes beyond understanding as you go through hard things? Have you ever seen the Lord pull you through those times in your life that seemed impossible to overcome?

We should REJOICE that Jesus helps us and we should be able to see that as perseverance is produced in us that character is also being built into our lives. I am so thankful that the trials of this life produce good things in us as we follow Jesus.

I want to share just a few scriptures with you and then we'll work on one more benefit we have in Christ but listen to 1 Peter 4:12-13 which says ¹²**Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.**

And then listen to James 1:2-4 which says ²**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

So benefit number 4 is that we can rejoice in trials knowing God is producing perseverance and character within us. Our trials in Christ have benefits for us.

And then finally look at verse 5 with me and we'll see a 5th benefit of knowing Jesus by faith it says 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.

The 5th benefit is the simple fact that the love of God has been poured out within us by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

I am so thankful that you and I are not orphans as we follow the Lord Jesus...In our own strength you and I are helpless and without any ability to please God. We couldn't please God before we came to Jesus and we won't be able to do so now in our own abilities.

However the Lord has given us the incredible blessing of the indwelling and empowering of the Holy Spirit.

I love what the Word says about the Holy Spirit over in Ephesians 1:13-14 which says ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

The Holy Spirit is a deposit that is given to us that let's us know that one day we have an inheritance that is going to be ours.

Over in Romans 8:16 the Word says ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, If you have come to Jesus by faith then the Spirit will speak to you within your heart that you now belong to God and that you are one of his children.

I will never forget in my life and I have shared this before but the first time I had an encounter with the Holy Spirit in my life was when I

was at a program called Teen Challenge and I was able to get an illegal substance and I thought that I was going to take it and it would be like it always was but the moment I took it there was like a voice in my heart and mind that said “You are not to live like this anymore” and I felt bad about what I had done because I knew it was wrong.

That feeling of being wrong wasn't in my life at all before I came to Jesus and I came to learn that what had happened was the Holy Spirit had spoken to me in my heart because He now lived inside me.

One of the things you realize real quick when you are truly following Jesus by faith is that you have a new master in your life, that there is someone else that is on the throne and it's not you but instead Christ desires to reign in your life.

I want to ask you as we prepare here to transition into our time of water baptisms a few questions.

1. Have you personally received Jesus Christ in your heart by faith for the forgiveness of your sins? If not the Bible says today is the day of salvation.
2. If you are a follower of Jesus have you realized that there are a multitude of benefits available for us right now as we go through this life?
3. Have you met the Holy Spirit in your life? Has He spoken to you that you are a child of God?

I have a sense in my heart that some of us here today need to be ministered to by the Holy Spirit...perhaps you need to come forward to receive Jesus in your heart, perhaps you need to submit yourself to the authority of Jesus Christ in your life choosing to leave the world

behind, perhaps you are a prodigal that has been gone for a while and you know you need to return, maybe today you would like to ask the Lord Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit and to allow you to enter into a deeper relationship with the power of God which resides within you by His Spirit.

If you are being baptized today why don't you go ahead and go and change and my wife is going to lead us in some worship and listen if you need a touch from God today, if you desire to come forward for prayer during worship why don't you go ahead and come up here on the far side of the stage where we have some space this morning and a few of the elders will be here to pray with you.

Let me pray.

Romans 5:1-5 “But Wait, There’s More”

Cross References

Introduction

Romans 3:21-22

Verse 1

John 4:13-14

Verse 2

Matthew 27:50-51

Hebrews 4:14-16

Romans 8:19-21

John 16:33

Verses 3-4

1 Peter 4:12-13

James 1:2-4

Verse 5

Ephesians 1:13-14

Romans 8:16