

02/13/22 Message

Part of Romansthe Life of Faith - the Power of Grace
February 12, 2022

Message: Wonderful Grace

Series: Romans

This is our fifth message in the series Romans: the Life of Faith - the Power of Grace.

As one of Paul's epistles (or letters), Romans is considered the greatest of all his letters. It's been called one of the most foundational documents of Christianity.

Introduction

Romans 5:1-21 (NKJV)

1 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, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, 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.

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul starts this part of saying - therefore, having been justified by faith. It's been said when you see therefore in the Bible - you need to ask - what's it there for? We see therefore when the writer is making a connection between two points and he's usually saying - for that reason, or now here's what matters. And you usually see it connecting a truth with a response that God's expecting from us.

—Pastor Chad

What's the truth God is exposing to us through Paul?

- We are JUSTIFIED through faith
 - [just if ied] = just if I'd never sinned
 - It means you have been made right (or righteous) in the sight of God

If you're saved - He looks at you and sees Jesus, and you're justified; it's just as if you've never sinned!

What does God expect from us?

- God expects FAITH

Paul spends the next section of this passage focusing on God is doing for us.

By Faith

- We have PEACE with God (v1)

Romans 5:10 (CEV)

Even when we were God's enemies, he made peace with us, because his Son died for us. Yet something even greater than friendship is ours. Now that we are at peace with God, we will be saved by his Son's life.

Romans 8:7 even calls our sin - hostile to God.

- We have ACCESS to God (v2)

Ephesians 2:18 (NIV)

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 3:12 (HCSB)

In Him we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

Paul is writing to the Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews) of the Roman Church. He explains it in terms they'd understand.

For the Jews - the veil in the temple separated them from God (cf. Exodus 26:33). 1 Kings 6 tells us about the temple - the veil had to be 30 feet tall and 60 feet wide and Jewish tradition indicates it was the thickness of a handbreadth (or around 4 inches thick). But in Matthew

27:50-51 it says when Jesus was on the cross, He cried out - and the veil was torn in two from top to bottom!

For the Gentiles - the temple had a barrier keeping them out - it was the soleg (a wall of separation) and it came with a warning engraved on it. In Ephesians 2:14, Paul says Jesus destroyed the barrier - He destroyed the wall!

Everyone now has access to God by faith!

- We have HOPE (v2)

The equation for hope is found in vv.3-4 where it says trials, temptations, and tribulations produce perseverance - and perseverance produces character - and character produces hope.

Hope means favorable and confident expectation (a joyful expectation of what's to come).

Wonderful, Abundant Grace

God has taken care of our past, present, and future!

- Your past - He forgives you - He gives you peace (v1)
- Your present - He loves you - He gives you access (v2)
- Your future - He is with you - He gives you hope (v2)

It's His gift to you!

Romans 5:16-21 (NLT)

16 And the result of God's gracious gift... leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

17 ... even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through... Jesus Christ.

18 ...Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

19 Because (Adam) ...disobeyed God, many became sinners... because (Jesus) ...obeyed (His Father)... many will be made righteous.

20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Can we do anything to earn it? Never! Do we deserve it? Absolutely not! Why does God offer us something we can't earn... Why does God offer us something we don't deserve... Paul is saying - God did this because of His wonderful grace!

—Pastor Chad

Definition of GRACE

- Grace is the undeserved LOVE and FAVOR of God
- God's Riches At Christ's Expense (GRACE)

Paul describes God's grace as abundant! That means His grace is always enough!

His grace is amazing - it's wonderful - it's abundant - and it's yours!