

Because He Lives 2 (Easter)

Peace With God

Romans 4:25 – 5:11

Memory Verses: Romans 5:8, 10

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Are you at peace with God? It's an interesting questions isn't it? Peace with God. What is peace with God? Well, you may not know this... but for most of our lives we've been at war with God. Some of you, your whole life... you are still at war with God. I know it may not look like it, because you aren't some devil worshipping pagan who goes around telling people how much you hate God, but it's true. Until you've make peace with God... you are at war with God... you are an enemy combatant... you are the antagonist of the story... you are a rebel. And if you don't make peace with God... then you are destined for an eternity separated from him.

But there is good news today. Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son, has made a way for you to have peace with God, once and for all. Look with me at **Romans 4:25 – 5:1, 6-11**.

This is what Easter is all about. The fact that Jesus has made a way for us to have peace with God through his death and resurrection. He has reconciled us and given us reconciliation. Everyone say, "reconciliation!" **It means peace. It means that our war with God is over. It means hostilities are forgiven. It means enemies become allies. It means the conflict is canceled. It means the guilty are received, the far are brought near, the dead are given new life, the sinner can be saved. It means that today is the day. Today is the day you can be reconciled to God and find peace!**

The message of Easter is this... Jesus lives so you can be at peace with God. **Because He Lives, You Can Be At Peace With God!** Today, I want to show you three ways the resurrection makes peace with God possible.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first way the resurrection makes peace with God possible is this... **The Resurrection Shows Us The Goodness of God**. Let's look again at **Romans 4:25**. Jesus was raised to life, resurrected, for our justification. As we've seen the last few weeks, justification is simply the imputed righteousness of Christ into our souls. We are sinners who sin. We cannot be good enough to escape our sinfulness. And so the plan was always that Christ would pay the price for our sin and give us his righteousness instead. He died to do this for you! That's what the cross is

all about! He died in our place to pay our penalty. And then gives us his righteousness so that when God looks upon us he says, "not guilty."

So he died for our justification, but he also was raised for our justification. Let me make this as simple as I can. Is anything truly finished until it is proven? No. So Jesus died as a sacrifice in our place, but we'd never know if he was in fact the one who could die for us.. unless he did what he said he would do... which was raise from the dead! So our justification doesn't mean anything unless Jesus rose from the dead! Cause otherwise it wouldn't be real... it wouldn't be true.

So now add **Romans 5:1**. Jesus was raised for our justification... and now that we are justified through faith... we have peace with God. Therefore.. Jesus was also raised for our reconciliation... so that we could have peace with God. No resurrection.. no peace. Peace with God flows directly out of the resurrection

But how? How does the resurrection give us peace with God? Well, why were we at war with God to start with? **Romans 1-3** tells us. **We were wicked, and rebellious. We knew that God was real and that God was the creator, but we didn't trust him to be good! We only saw him as a threat to our way of life. We wanted to live how we wanted to live and we thought that coming under his rule would be tyranny. So we suppressed the truth and told God to get lost. We lived our lives in direct conflict to how God had designed us and what he had designed us for. We were supposed to worship him, but we hated him!**

So God did what only he could do... **God took extreme measures to prove to you that he was in fact good and that he loves you! He sacrificed his son for you.** Look at **Romans 5:2**. So now if we put our faith in the death and resurrection of Christ and stand in the grace of his justification... we will look upon his glory, we will see his goodness, and we will rejoice at what he has done for us. We will put our weapons down... we will change uniforms... we will join the winning side. Why? Because now through Christ, we have seen the goodness of God once and for all! How could we look upon the love, grace, mercy, forgiveness, justification, and reconciliation that God gives to us in the death and resurrection of Christ and not make peace with him by finally placing our faith in Him. **Because He Lives, You Can Be At Peace With God!**

The second way the resurrection makes peace with God possible is this... **The Resurrection Empowers us With The Holy Spirit**. Let's look again at **Romans 5:3-5**. Though we see the goodness of God and place our faith in Him... we will still suffer in this life. We will still get sick, we will still get hurt, we will still get depressed, we will still be disappointed, we will still come against trials and temptations, and storms of all kinds.

Before, when we would face trials, we didn't have God to help us. Our suffering would lead us into more rebellion. More drinking, more anger,

more destructive behavior. Before making peace with God, your suffering made you more hostile towards God. But now, when you place your faith in the death and resurrection of Christ... something happens... God sends you the Holy Spirit. You can now walk in peace with God.

Rejoicing in suffering is only made possible through supernatural power. Allowing suffering to make you stronger is only made possible through supernatural power. Using endurance to make you a better person is only possible through supernatural power. Having a hope in something beyond the pain of this world... is only possible through supernatural power... The only way to become who you were meant to be in this painful world is through a power outside of yourself

And so God has given us himself the Holy Spirit. **You were never strong enough to walk in peace with God on your own...** but God himself in us... is!

And the only reason it is possible for the Holy Spirit to be sent to you is.... The resurrection. This isn't in our text this morning but **Acts chapter 1** tells us that Jesus stayed on the earth another 40 days after he was raised back to life. After which he ascended into the heavens. And he told his disciples this... unless I ascend, I cannot send you the Holy Spirit! So Jesus had to rise from the dead and ascend into heaven to send the Holy Spirit. If not for the resurrection... we wouldn't be empowered with the Holy Spirit! But now through the Holy Spirit... we have the power to find peace and hope in God every single day!
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The third way the resurrection makes peace with God possible is this... **The Resurrection Saves us Through the Living Son**. Let's look again at **Romans 5:6-11**. So far we've seen that we make peace with God when we see his goodness and we walk in peace with God when we feel his spirit. But here it all becomes clear when we recognize the depths of God's love towards us. Christ died to save us when we were weak. Christ died to save us when we were sinners. Christ died to save us when we were his enemies!

Look at the difference between Christ and us. We would hardly even dare to die for someone who was righteous and good. We would never dare die for our enemies. And that's why **vs. 8** is so powerful! While we were still the weak, sinful, enemies of God... he died for us. **While we had guns in our hands pointed at him. While we hated him and mocked him. While we ignored him and abandoned him. While we plotted against him and abused him... he still died for us!**

Sin places us on the wrong side of God's holiness. And there's nothing we can do in our own strength. We can't be good enough, we can't try hard enough. We can't make peace with God.

And so God came to our rescue! Look again at **verse 10**. Yes we

are saved by his death. But how much more so by his life! Meaning... his death saved us from eternal death... separation from God... Hell. But his life saves also us from the temptations of sin in this life! Now because he lives... I have new life now! As the song says, "life is worth the living just because he lives." **The life of a Christian is tied to the fact that we have a living savior. Because He Lives, You Can Be At Peace With God!**

Application

And so we come to a decision. Look again at **verse 11**. **Peace with God is not achieved it is received**. You cannot earn it through religion. You cannot gain it through morality and being a good person. You must simply receive it by trusting the One who died and rose again. You must put your faith in Jesus!

Conclusion

So, do you want peace with God? Do you want to quit rebelling against him in your sinful disobedience? Do you want to quit trying to be more good than bad? Do you want to finally rest from the never ending toil of this world? Then all you have to do is repent of your sins, put your faith in Christ, and make him the Lord of your life. Receive his peace through faith and be saved! **Because He Lives, You Can Be At Peace With God!**