

Romans 5:1-5
For the week of January 8, 2023

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Paul has concluded his basic account of justification and he is now moving on to the consequences (notice his “Therefore” at the beginning). Justification has results. The justified person has peace and joy, and Paul exults in this. In the process he further emphasizes the importance of the death of the righteous Christ for sinful people. The love of God is behind all this. Paul does not think of God as remote and indifferent but as full of love, and it is from his love that our salvation proceeds.¹

Observation (vs. 1)

3. Summarize this verse.

Interpretation

4. Does the peace mentioned in this verse differ from the peace mentioned in Philippians 4:7? Why or why not?

¹ Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 217.

Application

5. Since our peace with God is through what Christ has done, and not in anything we can do, how do we become better recipients of this peace with God?

6. How does Romans 8:39 confirm this?

Observation (vs. 2)

7. Put this verse in your own words.

Interpretation

8. What does it mean to stand in grace?

9. How do you interpret "rejoicing in hope of the glory of God"?

Application

10. How are you "standing" and "rejoicing" in what Christ has done for you?

Observation (vs. 3-4)

11. What is this verse saying?

Interpretation

12. How are each of the following results of suffering in Christ virtues?

Rejoice –

Endurance –

Character –

Hope –

Application

13. How do you rejoice in your tribulations/sufferings?

Observation (vs. 5)

14. Please put this mid-sentence verse in your own words.

Interpretation

15. Where does this hope come from?

Application

16. In the midst of this sin-filled world, where do you look for hope and why?

Suffering is the best context in which to become assured of God's love. Of course, many people will immediately assert the contrary, since it is suffering which makes them doubt God's love. But consider Paul's argument. He has traced the sequence of chain reactions from tribulation to perseverance, from perseverance to character, and from character to hope. Now he adds that *hope does not disappoint us* (5a), and never will. It will never betray us by proving to be an illusion after all. 'Such hope is no fantasy' (REB). But how do we know this? What is the ultimate ground on which our Christian hope rests, our hope of glory? It is the steadfast love of God. The reason our hope will never let us down is that God will never let us down. His love will never give us up.²

² John R. W. Stott, [*The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*](#), The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 142.