

In View of God's Mercy - Romans 5

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[A New Humanity in Christ]

Let's remember together again – we are being reminded of:

- The power of God for salvation to everyone who believes in Jesus
- God's wrath against unrighteousness – that all have sinned
- That sin is an exchange – the truth about God for a lie; the glory of God for something less
- All people – both Jewish / non-Jewish followers of Jesus are made righteous through faith in Jesus
- Living by faith is being fully convinced that God is able to do what He has promised to do

Martin Luther says this on Romans 5 *"In the whole Bible, there is hardly another chapter which can equal this triumphant one"*

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

I am justified (legal declaration) by faith (made right with God by faith in God)

I have peace with God (God's justice towards sin in my life is eternally secure) through Jesus Christ

I have access (by faith) into this grace – I have a standing in grace.

I have a standing in God's glorious, unmerited favor

Because of Jesus – because I trust in Jesus

I stand in grace

I stand forgiven

I stand accepted

I stand redeemed

I stand reconciled

I stand loved and pursued

I stand free of performance based acceptance with God

I stand welcomed by my Father in heaven

I stand not just loved by God, but have his joy and pleasure

I stand as a child of God – with the holy affections of a Father pleased with me.

Standing in grace - we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

John Stott reminds us, *"Justified believers enjoy a blessing far greater than a periodic approach to God or an occasional audience with the king. We are privileged to live in the temple and in the palace. Our relationship with God, into which justification has brought us, is not sporadic, but continuous, not precarious, but secure. We do not fall in and out of grace like courtiers who may find themselves in and out of favour with their sovereign (king or queen) or politicians with the public. No, we stand in it, for that is the nature of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love."*

He IS better...

Not only that...

Paul begins to remind these believers — not only are you justified by faith, not only do you have peace with God, not only do you have access by faith to this grace in which we stand, not only do we rejoice in hope of the glory of God...

Not only that — but also when life in a broken world gets hard, when suffering comes our way — even then, we have a plan, we stand in grace, we live in hope.

We rejoice in our sufferings.

Why?

We know that suffering produces endurance

We don't have to give up when life hurts and the pain is real.

We don't have to give in to unbelief or wavering faith when the circumstances are bad

We know that endurance produces character.

We know that persevering endurance produces Christlike character

We know that character produces hope.

We know that Christlike character produces hope

We know that hope DOES NOT put us to shame.

We know that hope in Christ doesn't put us to shame — because Christ doesn't put us to shame

He became our shame, once and for all, for all our shame, so that our hope would always be in

Him!

We know this because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

This is what is true — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. We have the presence of God in our hearts, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead — has been given to you!

If this is too good to be true and hard to believe — believe it. Paul reminds us that all the favor, all the hope, all the peace with God, all being made right with God, all the forgiveness we have been given, all the grace in which we stand, all the blessings we have received by grace through faith in Christ — these glorious realities came at a time we didn't choose — and at a cost we would never be able to pay.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

When we were weak - Christ died for us. When we were ungodly - Christ died for us.
While we were still sinners - Christ died for us. Christ died for us - to SHOW US God's love for us.

We have been justified by his blood – how MUCH MORE will we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
As enemies – reconciled to God by the death of his son. How MUCH MORE, as reconciled, will we be saved by his life!?

More than that – we REJOICE in GOD through JESUS – because of HIM we have now RECEIVED reconciliation.

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Sin came long before the law was given to Moses.

Martin Lloyd Jones, *“God has always dealt with humanity through a head and representative. The whole story of the human race can be summed up in terms of what has happened because of Adam, and what has happened and will yet happen because of Christ... Look at yourself in Adam; though you had done nothing, you were declared a sinner. Look at yourself in Christ; and see that though you have done nothing, you are declared to be righteous. That is the parallel.”*

*A dead and sinful humanity in Adam.
A living and redeemed humanity in Jesus.*

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Adam brought sin and death.
Jesus brings the grace of God and the free gift of God
Death reigned through Adam – but through Jesus how much more life and grace there is to be received.

The abundance of grace.
The free gift of righteousness.
Grace and righteousness will reign in life through the one man - Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore – one trespass led to condemnation for all men.

One act of righteousness (unrivaled) leads to justification and life for all men.

The gift is not like the trespass. All are guilty – and all could be justified – but not all are.

Not all believe. Not all receive this gift.

The blood of Jesus would always be enough – but some will never know this, believe this, or receive this.

As the law further reveals the already present sin of the world, where both the knowledge of sin and the reality of sin were increasing – grace abounded all the more. Sin reigned in death – but grace reigns through righteousness – and this righteousness is leading to eternal life through Jesus our Lord.

We will see in the weeks ahead, that grace not only means forgiveness for us, but also delivers us from its power, and transfers us from slavery to sin into a new slavery to righteousness.

Church – in view of God's mercy – what are you walking away with today?

In view of God's mercy – this is true!

- You are justified (legal declaration) by faith (made right with God by faith in God)
- You have peace with God (God's justice towards sin in your life is eternally secure) through Jesus Christ
- You have access (by faith) into this grace – you have a standing in grace.
- You have a standing in God's glorious, unmerited favor
- Because of Jesus you stand in grace
- Because of Jesus you stand forgiven
- Because of Jesus you stand accepted
- Because of Jesus you stand redeemed
- Because of Jesus you stand reconciled
- Because of Jesus you stand loved and pursued
- Because of Jesus you stand free of performance based acceptance with God
- Because of Jesus you stand welcomed by my Father in heaven
- Because of Jesus you stand not just loved by God, but have his joy and pleasure
- Because of Jesus you stand as a child of God – with the holy affections of a Father pleased with me.
- Because of Jesus - when you suffer, there is purpose in the process of building endurance, character, and hope that does not put us to shame.
- Because of Jesus – a new humanity in Christ, from every nation, tribe and tongue is being formed, and this new humanity is not ruled by sin and death, but by righteousness and life in Jesus.

Believe this. Walk in it. Trust in it. Lean on it.