August 3rd – True Peace With God

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
(Romans 5:1)

I know our culture has radically shifted toward selfishness and wickedness, and we're led to believe that most people don't think about God. In fact, even in my own community (where the Bible belt buckles) statisticians tell us that 8 out of 10 people are in no one's church anywhere on any given Sunday. And yet, I firmly believe that people know in the depths of their soul that there is a God to whom they must given an account, and they really want to know that they're at peace with Him.

The Apostle Paul was very clear in this verse – there is only one way to have true peace with God. That is, "having been justified by faith." When you place your faith in Jesus, not only are your sins forgiven and covered by the blood of Jesus, but you also have a right-standing with God. The Bible calls that justification – standing before God as though I'd never sinned based on the perfect righteousness of Jesus. Knowing that you have a right standing with God is the only thing that can give you lasting peace.

Don't get me wrong – Christians often anger the Lord. Any of us can walk the paths of sin and refuse to make the changes that are brought to our attention by the Holy Spirit. In those cases, the Lord will often rebuke us and sometimes even punish us, just like we would punish our children. But just because we punish our children doesn't mean that we disown them. They still belong to us and we belong to them. No matter how tough times get, take comfort in knowing that you've found eternal peace with God through faith alone in Jesus.