



The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 5

“The Ultimate Peace Treaty!”

~ TODAY WE RECEIVE THREE ARTICLES OF PEACE:

> ARTICLE #1 – (v1-11) PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

> ARTICLE #2 – (v12-17) JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PEACE!

> ARTICLE #3 – (v18-21) THIS IS AN ETERNAL PEACE TREATY!

> ARTICLE #1 – (v1-11) PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

(v1-2) The Bible declares that humanity is at war with God, but God has offered us a peace treaty through His Son Jesus Christ. Tragically we took the “*Prince of Peace*” and nailed Him to the cross. Think about the following passages:

- **John 3:19-** *And this is the condemnation that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

- **James 4:4-** *Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

- **Ephesians 5:5-7-** *For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.*

- **1 John 3:8-** *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.*

- **Listen to Paul in Colossians 1:19-23** - *For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight -- if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

- **In verse 2 we find a key word “ACCESS!”** – The Jew was kept from God’s presence by the veil in the temple; and the Gentile was kept out by a wall in the temple with a warning on it that any Gentile who went beyond would be killed. But when Jesus died, He tore the veil (Lk. 23:45) and broke down the wall of separation! (**Ephesians 2:11-18** - *Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*)

(v3-5) As a Christian we engage in spiritual warfare against the DEVIL (Eph. 6:10-20); the FLESH (Gal. 5:16-26); and the WORLD (John 16:33- *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*)

- Our *tribulations* produce *perseverance* (never give up); *character* (what are we made of); and *hope* (a glorious future), because *the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit*.

(v6-8) Christ died for the ungodly and the sinner!

(v9-11) We have been *justified by His blood; saved by His life; reconciled to God*, and we can *rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ*.

- **Reconciliation** is the process by which God and man are brought together again. The Bible teaches that God and man are alienated from one another because of God's holiness and man's sinfulness. Although God loves the sinner (Romans 5:8), it is impossible for Him not to judge sin (Heb 10:27). Therefore, in biblical reconciliation, both parties are affected. Through the sacrifice of Christ, man's sin is atoned and God's wrath is appeased. Thus, a relationship of hostility and alienation is changed into one of *peace and fellowship*. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

> ARTICLE #2 – (v12-17) JESUS CHRIST IS OUR PEACE!

(v12-14) Everyone has inherited sin and *death* from Adam, except the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

- **Death is threefold in Scripture:**

(1) There is the death of the **BODY**.

(2) We are **SPIRITUALLY** dead in *trespasses and sins* (Eph. 2:1).

(3) There is **ETERNAL DEATH**, an eternal separation from God (Rev 21:8 - *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*)

(v15-17) **Rejoice in three gifts God has given us:**

(Insight verse 16 – *“free gift”* (Greek – charisma) - a (divine) gratuity, i.e. deliverance (from danger or passion); (specifically) a (spiritual) endowment, i.e. (subjectively) religious qualification, or (objectively) miraculous faculty.)

(1) **The gift of HIS GRACE that abounds to many!**

- **Understanding God's GRACE** - Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God. The Lord God is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Ex 34:6). Therefore, grace is almost always associated with mercy, love, compassion, and patience as the source of help and with deliverance from distress.

In the Old Testament, the supreme example of grace was the redemption of the Hebrew people from Egypt and their establishment in the Promised Land. This did not happen because of any merit on Israel's part, but in spite of their unrighteousness (Deut 9:6). Although the grace of God is always free and undeserved, it must not be taken for granted. Grace is only enjoyed within the COVENANT-the gift is given by God, and the gift is received by man through repentance and faith (Amos 5:15). Grace is to be humbly sought through the prayer of faith (Mal 1:9).

The grace of God was supremely revealed and given in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God's grace (Luke 2:40), but He was also its very embodiment (John 1:14), bringing it to mankind for salvation (Titus 2:11). By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship between God and His people, both Jew and Gentile. The only way of salvation for any person is "through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 15:11).

The grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ is applied to human beings for their salvation by the HOLY SPIRIT, who is called "the Spirit of grace" (Heb 10:29). The Spirit is the One who binds Christ to His people so that they receive forgiveness, adoption to sonship, and newness of life, as well as every spiritual gift or grace (Eph 4:7).

The theme of grace is especially prominent in the letters of the apostle Paul. He sets grace radically over against the law and the works of the law (Rom 3:24,28). Paul makes it abundantly clear that salvation is not something that can be earned or merited; it can be received only as a gift of grace (Rom 4:4). Grace, however, must be accompanied by faith; a person must trust in the mercy and favor of God, even while it is undeserved (Rom 4:16).

The law of Moses revealed the righteous will of God in the midst of pagan darkness; it was God's gracious gift to Israel (Deut 4:8). But His will was made complete when Jesus brought the gospel of grace into the world (John 1:17). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(2) The gift of HIS JUSTIFICATION!

- **Understanding God's JUSTIFICATION** - The process by which sinful human beings are made acceptable to a holy God.

Justification by Grace. Christianity is unique because of its teaching of justification by grace (Rom 3:24). Justification is God's declaration that the demands of His Law have been fulfilled in the righteousness of His Son. The basis for this justification is the death of Christ. Paul tells us that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them" (2 Cor 5:19). This reconciliation covers all sin: "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Heb 10:14). Justification, then, is based on the work of Christ, accomplished through His blood (Rom 5:9) and brought to His people through His resurrection (Rom 4:25).

When God justifies, He charges the sin of man to Christ and credits the righteousness of Christ to the believer (2 Cor 5:21). Thus, "through one Man's righteous act, the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life" (Rom 5:18). Because this righteousness is "the righteousness of God" which is "apart from the law" (Rom 3:21), it is thorough; a believer is "justified from all things" (Acts 13:39). God is "just" because His holy standard of perfect righteousness has been fulfilled in Christ, and He is the "justifier," because this righteousness is freely given to the believer (Rom 3:26; 5:16).

Justification by Faith. Although the Lord Jesus has paid the price for our justification, it is through our faith that He is received and His righteousness is experienced and enjoyed (Rom 3:25-30). Faith is considered righteousness (Rom 4:3,9), not as the work of man (Rom 4:5), but as the gift and work of God (John 6:28-29; Phil 1:29).

The New Testament sometimes seems to speak of justification by works. For example, Jesus spoke of justification (and condemnation) "by your words" (Matt 12:37). Paul said, "the doers of the law will be justified" (Rom 2:13). And James concluded that "a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).

These statements seem to conflict with Paul's many warnings that "by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight" (Rom 3:20), and that the attempt to be justified through law is equivalent to being "estranged from Christ" and "fallen from grace" (Gal 5:4).

The solution to this problem lies in the distinction between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-25). Not only is Christ's righteousness legally accounted to the believer, but Christ also dwells in the believer through the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:10), creating works of faith (Eph 2:10). Certainly God's works may be declared righteous (Isa 26:12). If this is true, then the order of events in justification is grace, faith, and works; or, in other words, by grace, through faith, resulting in works (Eph 2:8-10).

The Results of Justification. The negative result of justification is what we are saved from: "Having now been justified...we shall be saved from wrath" (Rom 5:9). The positive result is what we are saved to: "Whom He justified, these He also glorified" (Rom 8:30).

Paul also notes "peace with God" (Rom 5:1) and access to God's grace (Rom 5:2) as positive benefits. The believer in Christ may look forward to the redemption of his body (Rom 8:23) and an eternal inheritance (Rom 8:17; 1 Peter 1:4). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(3) The gift of HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS that reigns in life!

- **Understanding God's RIGHTEOUSNESS** - Holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard. The word righteousness comes from a root word that means "straightness." It refers to a state that conforms to an authoritative standard. Righteousness is a moral concept. God's character is the definition and source of all righteousness (Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Rom 9:14). Therefore, man's righteousness is defined in terms of God's.

In the Old Testament the term righteousness is used to define man's relationship with God (Psa 50:6; Jer 9:24) and with other people (Jer 22:3). In the context of relationships, righteous action is action that promotes the peace and well-being of human beings in their relationships to one another.

For example, Adam and Eve would have acted righteously in their relationship with God if they had obeyed Him, because His commands defined that relationship. The Ten Commandments and related laws defined Israel's relationship with God. To obey those laws was to act righteously, because such obedience maintained the covenant relationship between God and His people.

The sacrificial system in the Old Testament and the cross of Jesus in the New Testament show man's need for righteousness. Sin is disobedience to the terms that define man's relationship with God and with other people. Since the **FALL** in the Garden of Eden, man is inherently unrighteous. As the prophet Isaiah said, "We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (Isa 64:6). Man cannot be righteous in the sight of God on his own merits. Therefore, man must have God's righteousness imputed, or transferred, to him.

The cross of Jesus is a public demonstration of God's righteousness. God accounts or transfers the righteousness of Christ to those who trust in Him (Rom 4:3-22; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:9). We do not become righteous because of our inherent goodness; God sees us as righteous because of our identification by faith with His Son. (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

> **An example of Jesus Christ as the "PRINCE OF PEACE and His free gift! - Luke 7:36-50.**

> ARTICLE #3 – (v18-21) THIS IS AN ETERNAL PEACE TREATY!

(v18-21) Let's compare the SIN of Adam with the SACRIFICE of Christ:

> Results of Adam's SIN:

- **A Garden of Eden (delight) – (Removed from the garden – world of destruction and death!)**
- **The blessing of God's provisions (Now work and sweat!)**
- **Brought divorce and the destruction of the family**
- **Established the "tree with the knowledge of good & evil"**
- **Brought death, disease, disasters, and devastations!**
- **Was the gift of separation from God and eternal judgment!**

> **Results of Christ's sacrifice for our SALVATION:**

- Endured the wilderness of sin (Complete obedience – Christ never sinned!)
- Received earth's curse upon Himself (Crown of thorns!)
- A bride purchased by His blood! (The church!)
- Crucified on the "tree of life!" (The cross!)
- Brought life, healing, peace, and a glorious kingdom!
- Gave us God's love, the Holy Spirit and eternal life!

> Never forget: "*grace reigns through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

Amazing Grace Lyrics

by Englishman John Newton

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me....
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now, I see.

T'was Grace that taught...
my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear...
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares...
we have already come.
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far...
and Grace will lead us home.

The Lord has promised good to me...
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be...
as long as life endures.

When we've been here ten thousand years...
bright shining as the sun.
We've no less days to sing God's praise...
then when we've first begun.

"Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me....
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now, I see.