

Romans: Unashamed; the righteous shall live by faith

Romans 5:1-5 prt 14

MPS: God is upfront with us about His blessings to us.

INTRO/REVIEW:

- **We start back in Romans today!!**
- **That video is your life and our church**
- **Today we start chapter 5 – our new life in Christ**

Vs 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

- “Therefore,” a significant term used throughout Romans, guiding us through some major movements in the letter. We find a therefore of (1) *condemnation* (Rom 3:20 NIV), (2) *justification* (5:1, 12), (3) *no condemnation* (8:1), and *dedication/transformation* (12:1)

There will be 4 parts.

- Chapters 1-4: *Salvation by Faith Alone*
- Chapters 5-8: *Our New Life in Christ*
- Chapters 9-11: *God’s Faithfulness in Redemptive History*
- Chapters 12-16: *A Practical Vision of the Christian Life*

Review

- It was written by the apostle Paul to the church in Rome.
- The church in Rome was most likely planted by converts from the day of Pentecost; it was possibly one of the most diverse churches at the time, composed of both Jewish and gentile Christians.
- He's writing from Corinth during a three month stay. We see this in Acts 21. Phoebe delivers the letter from Corinth
- Paul’s never been to this church neither had he planted the church.
- In AD 49 Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome. This is consistent with Luke’s account of Priscilla and Aquila being forced out of Italy because of Claudius’s edict (Acts 18:1–2) and arriving in Corinth to meet Paul.
- Eventually, the Jewish Christians returned to Rome when Claudius died in AD 54. In between this time the Roman church became a mainly Gentile church, so when the Jews

returned, the church became fractured along ethnic lines. You can imagine the issues. The leadership was mainly Gentile.

- The meetings were not in synagogues but house churches.
 - The Jewish believers would have found many cultural practices offensive.
 - Paul addresses these sorts of social and ethnic issues in Romans 9–11 and 14–15.
 - Therefore, there was probably a Gentile majority in the church, with significant changes in leadership and practice, necessitating a unity-building letter.
- What unifies the people in the church? What’s powerful enough to create a real *family* out of different people—people who shouldn’t have *any* reason, according to the world’s view, to be friends, much less *family*? It’s the *gospel*!
 - The whole book of romans is Gospel saturation – what the gospel is and all the implications of it.

OPEN:

Leah and Rachael

- Jacob runs from Esau
- Ends up in Uncle Laban’s home
- He has 2 daughters – one is gorgeous and the other is ‘weak eyed’
- Jacob fell in love with Rachael
- This was his much-anticipated life blessing

Building up for the blessing

Genesis 29:20 (ESV) 20 *So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.*

Genesis 29:25 (ESV) 25 *And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?”*

- AS Tim Keller said - Jacob goes to bed with Rachel but wakes up to Leah
- Isn’t that the metaphor of all our lives?
- We got that life blessing, but it doesn’t feel like a blessing to enjoy but a disappointment to detest.

Examples

WORK

KIDS

FAMILY

HEALTH

- You and I, like Jacob, feel deceived...
- You could work really hard for something that you anticipate to be a full life blessing only to attain it, to find something completely different than what you expected. You're let down.
- We often treat God like Jacob treated Laban – God, I will put the work in to earn what I think is the big blessing – and once we get it, we are disappointed – we feel deceived.
- God is not like Laban
- God is upfront with us. What if Laban would have been upfront with Jacob?

God is upfront *with us* about His blessings *to us*.

1 Peter 4:12 (ESV) 12 *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

- He doesn't lie to us: He doesn't deceive us: He tells us you're condemned, and he tells us, I can save you. Then he tells us, when you're saved, here are my blessings of your life and it may not be material wealth, perfect health, an easy life, perfect children, perfect spouse I have something greater – AND you will go through seasons of suffering BUT I'm with you, I'm working in you, I turn your sufferings into sanctification
- He is upfront with us and tells us that his blessings to those he has justified are peace with God, a grace to stand in, and a rejoicing in hope in the midst of suffering.
- This passage is a great gift. If you are struggling to enjoy God, to delight in God. What a blessing this Text is

1. We have peace with God

Vs 1 *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

- Paul's style is shifting from argument to adoration
- The only way to win the battle with God is to lose the battle against God.
- Because we have peace with God, we can now have the peace of God. But if you don't have peace with God, you can't know the peace of God, and that peace is given to you, he says in verse one: by faith in Jesus.

- Peace is a universal desire – both saved and unsaved will live life with peace – why does it so often evade us?
- Stand in brides
- We unite, marry, stand in brides of peace anticipating great blessings but they always lead to unraveling's and disappointments – waking up to Leah
- A stand in can't give you what the authentic can.
- God is the author of peace, and He offers His peace through faith in His son.
- What are your stand ins?
 - Pills
 - Bottles
 - Screens
 - Avoiding hard things
- Do you have peace?
- Some of God's common graces have turned into ultimate graces
- God's people enjoy the blessing of God's peace.

God is upfront *with us* about His blessings *to us*.

2. We stand in grace

Vs 2a *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,*

- The Christian never puts Grace behind them. We live in it. We stand in it
- We now have access to the Father. It says we don't have just periodic access to the king. We live in the palace as the king's kids. We have access to him. We have access to this grace.
- Tim Keller said this: "The only person who dares wake up a king at 3am in the morning for a glass of water – is the child of the King."
- "Stand" means – to be fixed.... Not running, hiding, walking away, chasing... but standing.
- We stand in the grace of God – not run from it.

- Some of you are running from the grace of God because you don't think you deserve it. Newsflash – you don't. Its why its called grace.

John 6:37 (ESV) 37 *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

- Some of you have walked away because you chased after stand ins.
- Standing under his faucet of grace. “I can turn on the faucet but I cant make the water flow”

3. We rejoice in hope

Vs 2b-5 *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.*

- But what he says here is that suffering is also the path to maturity. Suffering is necessary. We don't like it necessarily, but it leads us to maturity.
- God's number one priority is not to take away all your problems. It's to make you like Jesus.
- “There's not one cut from the vine dressers pruning knife that is useless. He's shaping, shaping us so that we may bear fruit and his pattern here can be anticipated, suffering, endurance, character, hope...” Merida
- Martin Luther, said that there are three things you need for understanding, scripture, prayer, meditation on the scriptures and suffering.
- Suffering is a great school.
- When you're enduring suffering in faith, it reassures you, you really do belong to Jesus.
- It produces hope, because you know your faith is real. You're not withering away with suffering - you're enduring in suffering.
- You see that in the parable of the four soils, in Mark 4:17
- **Mark 4:17 (ESV) 17** *And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.*

- Only God can turn suffering into blessing

CONCLUSION:

- Maybe you're like – dude you were pretty rough on Leah – bless her heart.
- **See, we are all Leah**
- Leah wasn't beautiful, Leah was lacking, Leah was barren.
- We are dirty, we are emptyhanded, we are spiritually barren.
- In the same way he was gracious toward Leah and opened her womb to give new life, He does the same for us through our faith in Him.
- Though we might look like Leah, to Jesus Christ we look like Rachel. That's the gospel. We might look like Leah in ourselves, but to Jesus Christ we look gorgeous.
- Is there anybody here who feels ugly? The only eyes that count are radiant with you.
- **Therefore, replace your stand-ins with the authentic so you can have peace with God and the peace OF God, Stand in His grace – no need to run from Him nor His means for grace, finally, rejoice in HOPE – your growing endurance and character in suffering is a blessing in disguise.**
- **Aren't you glad that God is upfront *with us* about His blessings to us.**

QUESTIONS FOR GROUPS:

- 1 What are some stand ins you put in the place of Christ to give you peace?
- 2 How does God use your suffering to ultimately give you HOPE?
- 3 What are you thankful for today?