

Abounding Grace Christian Church

A Study through the Epistle to the Romans – Part 12

I. Exposition of Chapter Five. (Note: The emphasis in this chapter is on what has been done for the believer “through Christ.” See 5:1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21.)

A. Verses 1-2 – The Benefits of Believing.

1. Verse 1 – “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” – Up to this point in Romans, Paul has convinced us all that the only way of salvation is to be justified by grace, through faith. Now he will tell us what the practical benefits of this are.

a. “...justified by faith...” - speaks of a legal decree. In 1:18 and 3:20, we were found guilty before the courts of God’s law, God’s glory, and our own conscience. Then Paul explained how because of what Jesus did for us, the righteousness of God is given to all who believe.

Now the guilty sentence is transformed into a sentence of justified, and justified by faith!

b. Because of this justification, “...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1) There are three kinds of peace spoken of in the New Testament. The first is the one mentioned here. There is no true peace with having peace with God. The word “peace” means; **“to bind together that which has been separated.”** –

“Our Lord made peace through the blood of the Cross (Col. 1:20) in the sense that through His atonement He binds together again, those who by reason of their standing in the First Adam had been separated from God and who now through faith in Him are bound again to God in their new standing in the Last Adam.”¹

2) The second kind of peace in the New Testament is the “peace of God” – **Philippians 4:4-6.**

3) The third kind of peace is peace with others – **Romans 12:18.**

c. Notice that this peace is “...through our Lord Jesus Christ.” – This indicates the channel or conduit through Whom the benefits of justification flow. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Mediator between God and man which means He is the channel of blessing. (**I Timothy 2:5**).

2. Verse 2 – “...through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

a. “Through whom” refers to the Lord Jesus Christ again, “...we have access by faith...” – The word “access” means, **“the act of bringing to, a moving to God, i.e. that relationship with God whereby we are acceptable to him and have assurance that he is favorably disposed towards us.”²**

1) In the Old Testament there was no access into God’s presence except once a year the High Priest would enter into the **“Holy of Holies”**. Now, the veil has been torn (**Matthew 27:51**) and the presence of God has been opened to all believers. (cf. **Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19-20**).

b. “...into this grace in which we stand...” – The word “grace” means; **“unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor”**. In this context the “grace” is referring to righteousness and everything that goes along with it. Again, pointing out that it’s by faith that we tap into God’s grace.

c. “...and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” – The word “hope” is often associated with the consummation of the believer’s faith. This can be expressed as glory, eternal life, ultimate salvation, Second Coming, etc. (cf. **Galatians 5:5; Titus 2:13**).

“Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God.” – Romans 5:2 – Amplified Bible

B. Verse 3 – “And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.” – The word “tribulation” means; **“pressing together” or “pressure”**. The word “perseverance” means; **“steadfastness”, “constancy” and “endurance”**. In verse 2, Paul states that we are to rejoice in hope of the glory of God (the ultimate glory) and here he states that we are to rejoice (glory) in tribulations, or the immediate trials that lead us to the ultimate glory. It seems that Paul is saying that we

¹Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*, vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 77.

²Joseph Henry Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House., 1977)

shouldn't just be looking to the future of heaven and rejoicing but also be rejoicing in the present realizing that tribulation, handled correctly can produce perseverance in our lives. It's important to point out that trials do not automatically produce perseverance or everyone would be strong in perseverance. It's the learning to rejoice and apply God's Word in the midst of trials that brings perseverance. (cf. **James 1:2-3; I Peter 1:3-9; 4:12-14**).

C. **Verse 4 – "...and perseverance, character, and character, hope."** – The word "character" in secular Greek was used to describe metals that had been tested and been determined to be pure. The idea is that when you put the metal through a fiery test and if it comes out on the other side "persevering and enduring", you call the metal proven, authentic or genuine.

"And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation." – **Romans 5:4 – Amplified**

"And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation."
Romans 5:4 – New Living Translation

D. **Verse 5 – "Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."**

1. All of these Christian experiences and hopes rest upon an assurance of the love of God. An understanding of God's love for us enables us to endure every tribulation and brings us great hope in life. His Holy Spirit within us reveals the love of God to us because we can now love Him and others with that kind of love which is poured out into our hearts.

E. **Verses 6-8 – A Description of God's love for us.**

1. **Verse 6 – "For when we were still without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly."**

a. The words "without strength" - means "impotent", "helpless" and "powerless". When we were helpless to save ourselves.

b. **"In due time Christ died for the ungodly."** – The words "due time" is a word meaning "a strategic time, an opportune moment" and the "right time." (cf. **Galatians 4:4**).

2. **Verse 7 - "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die."** Paul is saying that maybe someone would die for a righteous person but "scarcely", meaning; "difficult"; "rarely" and "not easily".

3. **Verse 8 - "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."** Jesus Christ died for us while we were without strength, ungodly, unrighteous, no good, guilty sinners! **WHAT AMAZING LOVE AND GRACE! (I John 4:9-10.)**

F. **Verse 9 - "Much more then, having now being justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him."** This is yet future. We are "now justified by His blood," we "shall be saved from wrath." Remember that God's Wrath isn't a fit of temper, but His unchanging attitude toward sin in any form. The Unsaved already have the "wrath of God" abiding on them (**John 3:36**). God has delivered the Christian from this "wrath," and desires that all men might be delivered from it. "God's wrath" is described as "vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

G. **Because of His Love:**

1. He died for us. **Romans 5:8.**

2. He has made us alive together, raised us up, and made us sit together with Him. **Ephesians 2:4-7.**

3. He has made us "more than conquerors." **Romans 8:37.**

4. He has made us sons of God. **I John 3:1,2.** Amplified Translation:

"See what [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us, that we should [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God!..."

5. He corrects us as sons. **Hebrews 12:5-6**

6. He has delivered us from fear. **I John 4:16-18.**

7. Our faith is activated and energized. **Galatians 5:6.**

8. We can have confidence in prayer. **John 16:23-27**

9. He reveals Himself to us. **John 14:21.** (This implies that He loves those who love Him more than He does those who do not love Him.)

10. We can love one another. **I John 3:10-14.**