

Peace with God – Romans 5:1-5

I. INTRODUCTION

A. *What Makes You Shout?*

1. What rings your bell? What gets your motor revving? What pumps you up & gets you going?
2. What makes you jump to your feet, throw your hands in the air & shout?
3. Some say, “Oh, I’m just not that kind of a person. I’m mellow. It’s fine to get excited & shout, but that’s just not *me*.”
4. Hold on – what **WOULD** would move you to jump up & shout?

B. *Argument to Exulting*

1. As we come to ch. 5, that’s Paul; on his feet pumping both hands & shouting!
2. He’s *finished arguing* that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works or religion.
3. And now he *announces the benefits* of God’s grace.

II. TEXT

A. V. 1

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

1. Paul spent the previous chapters proving beyond question that we’re made right with God, not by our efforts but by what Jesus did.
 - a. He spelled out every objections he’d heard & dismissed them with Scripture & logic.
 - b. He’s shown there’s only one way to *be righteous*; by *believing* Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves;
 - c. He died to pay the just penalty for our sins, & rose again victorious over death,.
 - d. When we place our trust in Him & His work rather than ourselves & ours, then His perfect righteousness is *imputed* to our spiritual account by God.
2. So, as he says here in v. 1, the demands of Divine Justice have *all* been satisfied.
3. But Jesus did *more* than just *remove* God’s wrath from us. He made *peace* between us.
 - a. Before we came to faith in Jesus, we were enemies of God.
 - b. We were rebels, opposed to God’s will at every turn.
 - c. We were members of a spiritual al-Qaida, running around setting off spiritual car bombs.

- d. Jesus not only paid for the guilt of our sin, He turns our hearts from rebellion to repentance.
- e. He brings us into a warm, *close relationship* with the God we once defied.
- 4. Picture a courtroom at the County government center.
 - a. A man stands trial for some serious criminal charges.
 - b. He's accused of burglarizing a house & stealing several precious items.
 - c. Turns out the house he burgled was the *judge's!*
 - d. The trial commences, the evidence is presented – it's *obvious* he's guilty.
 - e. When the trial begins, the defendant is defiant, claiming he's innocent.
 - f. But as the evidence mounts, he caves admits his guilt.
 - g. The defense attorney asks the judge if he can change the plea from innocent to guilty. The defendant admits the crime & throws himself on the mercy of the court.
 - h. The judge sees sincerity regret in the man & with compassion, dismisses the charges & sets him free.
 - i. What we expect from the judge are at the least some stern parting words *warning* the guy.
 - j. What we *don't expect*, what would be *unheard of* is if instead the judge handed him a card with his number on it & invited him over for dinner that night.
 - 1) When he arrives, the judge invites him in, shows him around, gives him his d'ouevers, then treats him to a sumptuous gourmet meal.
 - 2) Afterward they sit in front of a fire & enjoy coffees & baklava while sharing stories.
 - 3) When the forgiven man leaves at the end of the evening, it's with an invitation to dinner the next night as well.
- 5. Jesus didn't *just* secure God's mercy & release from guilt for our sin; He did that – but He also healed the breach between God & us. He brought us into intimate fellowship with God.
- 6. *We have peace with God through Jesus.*
 - a. The Jewish concept of peace was more than the removal of animosity & enmity.
 - b. Peace, *shalom* meant *blessing, health, wholeness, good-will.*
 - c. It was a relational-word describing a person's *relationship* to something or someone else.
 - d. If you're at peace with someone, it means you're in the place to enjoy all the *benefits* the other person had to bestow.

7. Jesus brought us into the place *now* where we can, & **OUGHT** to experience all the benefits God has to bestow.
- a. Look at the verb tenses -
having been justified by faith,
 - b. The cross – it’s done forever
we have peace with God
 - c. *Present tense*; we are *constantly* in a place of right relationship of peace with God.
 - d. God isn’t *moody*; *fickle* in how He ‘feels’ about you.
 - 1) You’re not on *probation* with Him.
 - 2) His attitude/posture toward you isn’t iffy,
 - 3) Or dependent on how well *you’re* doing.
 - e. Our peace with God is THROUGH the Lord Jesus Christ, not us!
 - f. And He is the same, yesterday, today & forever.
8. No one likes being around those who’re *upset* with us
- a. We go out of our way to *avoid* people we know are angry at us.
 - b. Satan knows this so he ever tries to get us to see God through how *we’re* doing, as though His mood was determined by us.
 - c. What Paul says here ought to forever banish that thinking & instead, move us to rejoicing as we realize *because of Jesus*, right now, we have peace with God.
9. The devil is such a liar.
- a. While he tries to make *believers* think God is *upset with them*,
 - b. But he tells *unbelievers* God is a big ball of cosmic love who *accepts everyone* regardless of how they live or what they believe.
 - c. If there’s no wrath, there’s no need to be saved.

B. V. 2

through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,

- 1. We’re not only *saved* by grace, we **STAND** by it.
 - a. We don’t *start* with grace then change over to our own efforts.
 - b. That was the error the Galatians made.
 - 1) Paul planted several churches in the region of Galatia.
 - 2) No sooner had he left than false teachers crept in saying if the Galatians wanted to keep their salvation, they had to obey the Law of Moses.
 - 3) Paul wrote a stinging rebuke, “Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”

2. Grace isn't merely *the starting point* of the Christian life, it's also *the means* of growing in it.
 3. We stand in grace.
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4. Where do you take your stand with God? In your works, or in His grace?
 5. Here's what this means in a *practical way* –
 - a. Have you met people who are part of a group that puts a great emphasis on externals like clothes or food?
 - 1) There's a certain style they have to wear, with regulations about what is & isn't permitted?
 - 2) It isn't simply a matter of being *modest*, they have rules about the length of hemlines & the wearing of head-coverings. Makeup is forbidden.
 - 3) Some forbid the eating of meat.
 - 4) One prohibits the use of medicines & the observance of holidays.
 - b. They've simply substituted the Laws of Moses for the new laws of their leader.
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- c. We're pretty safe here at Calvary from that kind of *legalism*.
 - d. But there's a much more subtle way legalism would try to poison our spiritual lives.
 - e. It's when we develop our own set of *rules* for how we can get closer to God & earn His favor.
 - 1) We think, "If I read more, pray more, witness more, God will love me more."
 - 2) "If I serve more, give more, God will be happier with me."
 - f. We all agree we ought to read, pray, share our faith, serve, & give.
 - g. But we do these things *because* of God's love & grace, not in an attempt to earn it.
6. We make much of grace here at Calvary because the Word does.
 - a. Over the years I've talked with people from legalistic groups *caution* me that preaching grace will cause people to be morally sloppy & spiritually lazy.
 - b. They think enforcing rules motivates people to a more holy lifestyle.
 - c. I've found the opposite is true.
 - 1) *Preaching legalism* will do 1 of 2 things --
 - a) If people *fail* to keep the rules, then guilt sets in & they despair of ever being good enough to be useful to God.
 - b) If they succeed at keeping the rules, they grow self-righteous & proud so they can't be used by Him.
 - 2) *Preaching grace* motivates people by the love of God.

- d. And the fact is, nothing will motivate us to holiness like grace.
 - 1) Grace draws us to God, Who’s holy.
 - 2) The closer you get to God, the farther you get from sin.

& rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- 7. This word *rejoice* means to *exult with jubilant celebration*.
 - a. This isn’t, “Yeah, that’s cool!”
 - b. It’s on your feet, both hands in the air, *shouting* at full volume.
- 8. We have *reason* to be excited - We’re going to heaven!
- 9. Excited, celebrating believers are often *ridiculed* as religious fanatics.
 - a. A fanatic is *overly* enthusiastic. They’re zealous *beyond reason*.
 - b. When you consider the promises God’s made & the future that awaits us, *no* amount of excitement or celebration is *too* great.
- 10. Compare a college or pro-football stadium to a church

<i>Football Stadium</i>	<i>Church</i>
Fans wearing their team's colors & officially licensed logo bearing clothes	Bring a bible - really serious!
Scream their heads off	Raise your voice in praise? Ooh!
Paint their faces	Raise your hands? Weesh!
Wild Gestures, the wave	Kneel? Fanatic!
Pay \$50 to \$100 bucks a ticket	Drop a \$20 in the offering? Going way overboard

- 11. Paul says our rejoicing is grounded in the hope of the glory of God.
 - a. What that means is spelled out in 1 John 3:2 -
Beloved, now we are children of God; & it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
 - b. Theologians call this *The Beatific Vision*.
 - c. The day will come when we’ll lay aside the effects of the Fall, our last ties to this fallen world,
 - d. And we’ll be *changed* into a mode of existence *capable* of seeing God in the fullness of His glory.
 - e. If we were to see even the slightest hint of His glory *now* it would wipe us out; ask Moses & Isaiah.
 - f. But the day will come when we’ll see God face to face, the fullness of His *awesome* glory, & we’ll realize every other time we used the word ‘awesome’, it was *misused*.

g. When we finally see God's glory, in that instant, we'll realize **WHY** we were created – for that very thing!

h. Let me illustrate this:

- 1) You hear a pure sweet voice singing a lovely melody. It's beautiful.
- 2) Then another voice enters. Occasionally it follows the 1st voice, but mostly it's flat & doesn't follow the melody.
- 3) Then all of a sudden, that 2nd voice finds its pitch & becomes the perfect harmony that thrills you as you listen to both voices.

i. God sings a perfect song & calls us to sing harmony.

- 1) We try, but at best all we do is occasionally find the right note.
- 2) The day will come when we'll sing a perfect harmony to God's marvelous melody.

12. Paul has revealed our glorious destiny, now he turns to our present condition to add *more reason* to why we can exult.

C. Vs. 3-4

And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; & perseverance, character; & character, hope.

1. It's *easy* to celebrate our hope of heaven; how can we *glory* in tribulations?
2. Frankly, we can't—*unless* we understand that the God is in control of *all things today!*
3. Paul sees tribulations, trials, adversity, trouble in the life of the believer as serving a positive end.
4. He knows God isn't content to just save us from the *penalty* of sin then take us to heaven one day.
5. He wants us to be delivered from the soul-numbing *effects* of sin.
6. He wants to *restore* to us the moral & spiritual qualities men & women were originally meant to possess but were lost in the Fall.
7. Suffering is one of the tools He employs to accomplish that glorious transformation.
8. In 2 Cor. 4:17 Paul puts it like this . . .

Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding & eternal weight of glory.

9. The word *tribulations* in v. 3 means *to be put under pressure*.

- a. It describes the process of getting oil out of olives, juice out of grapes, & perfume from a petal.

- b. We're put under pressure, not to destroy us, but to extract the qualities God would build in us.
- c. Apply pressure & heat to a lump of coal & you get a diamond.
- 10. Perseverance is *endurance*, the ability to bear up under pressure over a long time.
 - a. Endurance is crucial to our spiritual development because life isn't lived in a moment.
 - b. Life is billions of moments, one right after another.
 - c. Anyone can rise to a challenge for a moment.
 - d. What marks the difference between the great & the lucky is *endurance, consistency*.
- 11. It's good when you're nice *one day* to that nasty guy at work who thinks it's his mission in life to make your life miserable.
- 12. It's *greatness* when you're nice to him **EVERY** day.
- 13. Perseverance prepares the way for *true character* to be developed.
 - a. *Character* means *proven integrity*.
 - b. It was used of metals refined by fire.
- 14. Here's what happens.
 - a. We face trial after trial & because God *always* gets us through, we learn to trust Him.
 - b. Perseverance settles in & prepares us to look at trials *differently* than we used to.
 - c. Instead of *dreading* them, we *endure them with confidence* that God's grace will get us through, coming out the other side BETTER than we went in.
- 15. So we can glory in tribulations because every one of them does 2 things –
 - a. It reminds us of the faithfulness of God,
 - b. It makes us *more like Him*.
- 16. Now, I've shared this before but we have a lot of new folk & it fits so well here -
 - a. The Church is called the *bride of Christ*.
 - b. He wants & deserves a bride with character, with some strength & spine!
 - c. Not some milk-toast, weak, whining, sniveling, selfish wretched wench.
 - d. It's *difficulty & challenge* that builds character, so think of tribulation as your pre-marital counseling!

D. V. 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. People put their hope in all kinds of things, but they end up disappointed.
2. Our hope in Christ will *never* be disappointed. God keeps His word – He can't do otherwise.
3. As a *down payment* on His promise, He's given us His Spirit.
4. As 1 John 4 says, God is love. So, if you have His Spirit, then you have His love.
5. And not a measured drop. The word *poured* means to *overflow*.
6. A young woman who had a been born into desperate poverty was taken on an outing by an inner city church to the beach.
 - a. It was the first time she'd ever seen the ocean.
 - b. She was delighted but after a while tears filled her eyes.
 - c. Someone asked her what was wrong. She said, "Thank God for a sight of something there's *enough* of!"
7. The floodgates of heaven have been opened & God is pouring out torrents of His love upon us.
8. There is *enough* of that love to meet *every* need in your life.

III. CONCLUSION

A. The Benefits

As we end today, let's quickly review why we can & ought to *exult in celebration* –

- 1 – God declares us just & right with Him.
- 2 – We're at peace with Him
- 3 – We're in a relationship with Him that enables Him to bless us
- 4 – We're not only saved by grace, we live every moment by it.
- 5 – We're going to heaven where all we were created for will be ours.
- 6 – Even the sufferings of this life are turned from negatives to positives because we know God is using them for our good.
- 7 – No matter what happens, we win – & nothing can take away our hope.
- 8 – God *has* loved, *is* loving, & *will* love us forevermore.

B. Icthus & Smiley Face