

Romans Part 16 – Chapter 5
Sunday, June 26, 2022
With input from Bibleref.com, John MacArthur,

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore... Let's review what this is there for.

Chapter 4 - God only declares people righteous based on their faith in Him.

“God does require us to be successful, only that we be faithful.” – Mother Teresa

We saw last week that Romans 4 is all about the faith of Abraham. God declared Abraham righteous because of his faith, not because of his works. A declaration of righteousness was God's gift, not a payment.

This righteousness is available to everyone, circumcised or not. God declared Abraham righteous many years before he was circumcised, making him the spiritual father of all who believe, whether circumcised or not, whether Jew or Gentile. God's promises to Abraham and his offspring can't be received by keeping the law, only by faith.

Abraham's faith in God's promise of a son with Sarah grew and did not waver as he grew older. God will declare us righteous, as well, if by faith we believe in the God who delivered Jesus to die for our sins and raised Him back to life for our justification.

Romans 5:1

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

The result of having been justified is that we can have peace – no worries, because it is God who took care of the penalty of sin through Jesus. And, if God did it, it can be eternal.

So now a question is: If we get in by faith, what keeps us there? What maintains it?

Paul uses six truths in chapter 5 that help us understand our eternal security with God:

- 1. Truth #1** “We have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus”. This is not merely stating an emotional peace but is declaring “we are no longer at war with God”. Notice what Paul says in **Romans 8:7-9**: *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.⁹ However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit.*

But also notice that Paul ties in justification with reconciliation = “*since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God*” We are at peace with God forever because every sin we will ever commit was already borne by Christ. And so there is nothing to violate our reconciliation, for the sin for which we should be cast out was paid for and covered.

Romans 5:2: *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

- 2. Truth #2** We are in grace. We aren't moving in and out of grace. We're standing in it. We're not coming and going through it. We're standing in it. This starts with "through him." By whom? Jesus the Christ, everything is because of Him.

Remember that Paul has been addressing Jews here and now he brings in a concept that is very reasonable to us today, but not for the Jews Paul is addressing. *Through him we have also obtained access by faith.* Jews did not have access to God. Everything a Jew had ever known all his life was that God is the utterly holy and unapproachable one. What would happen to a Jew if he ever got close to God? He'd be consumed.

Remember when God put the tabernacle in place, and He put the temple in place, they could go so far. The Gentiles could go so far, no further. The women could go so far, no further. The men could go so far, no further. The priests could go so far, no further. And there was only one priest who only one day a year could ever go into the presence of God and that was the high priest. After all kinds of cleansing ritual he went in there and he sprinkled the blood as fast as he could and he got out of there.

Paul is saying something astounding here – we now have access to God

Paul (or the writer of Hebrews) expands on this in **Hebrews 4:14-16:**

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

This is also why the veil was rent (torn) in two – access to God!

But there are Jews who say you got saved by grace and now you have to do rules to stay in there, you have to keep the law and if you break the law you're out. No. This says you stand in grace, you are firmly fixed in an environment of grace and grace is God's unmerited forgiveness of sin.

Jude says it this way in verse 24. *"Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy."*

When you come in you stand in grace and that is the continual gracious, undeserved, unmerited forgiveness of God on your behalf for your sins. It continues. It is an aura of grace. And grace is that which forgives, and because of that He is able to keep you from falling. We stand in grace, safe custody.

And think of this Because where sin abounds, what happens? Grace much more abounds. There's no way out because if you stand in grace, grace can only function where there is failure, true?

Romans 5:2: *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

3. **Truth #3 – We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** Notice what **Romans 8:28-30** tells us on glory: ²⁸ *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* ²⁹ *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters;* ³⁰ *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

In other words, if He pre-established a love relationship with an individual and He predestinated them, He didn't just predestine them to enter in, He predestined them ultimately to be in the image of Christ. He isn't predestining the initiation, He is predestining the completion. We are predestined to finish. We are not predestined to be incomplete but predestined to be complete. And so, in verse 30: "Whom He did predestinate, them He also called.

And whom He called, them He also justified. And whom He justified them He also glorified." There's no loss, because if you're predestined to begin, you're predestined to end. If you're predestined to start, you're predestined to finish. If you're predestined to be in Christ, you're predestined to be like Christ. That's the securing reality of the hope of the believer. And the doctrine of security is based on the hope of glory.

We are at **peace with God** because of Christ's finished work in the past, we **stand in grace** because of His intercessory work in the present, and we have no fear of the future because of His ultimate statement that He said in **John 6:** *"All that the Father gives to Me shall come to Me and I have lost none, but will raise him up at the last day."* The Christian has a secure future. We boast in a secure future. In **Romans 8:29**, it says that glory is defined this way: *"We will be conformed to the image of His Son."*

It's silly to assume that God saves people and then crosses His finger and hopes they'll get to glory. You, if you were initiated, were initiated to be completed. You were redeemed to be glorified.

1 Peter 5:1 *Therefore, I urge elders among you, as your fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed.*

Romans 5:3

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.

4. **Truth #4** *God's love has been poured into our hearts.* The unbeliever feels none of that. The unregenerate individual senses no affinity to God, senses no intimacy with God, senses no real communion with God. But for those of us who know Jesus Christ, God has put His Spirit in us and His Spirit in us draws us into an intimate love relationship with the living God Himself. Security in our salvation comes not only from outside revelation but from the heart.

Notice the next verses that show God's love for us:

⁶ *For while we were still weak* (remember ἀσθενέω or astheneo – pronounced az-then-a-ho, from James 5? This means weak or without power, only sometimes “sick”), *at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

⁷ *For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—* ⁸ **but God shows his love for us** *in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love." If in your life, by disobedience you quench the Spirit, if in your life by unrighteousness, by unconfessed sin, by disobedience you grieve the Spirit, you will cause the Spirit to bear no fruit. You will hinder that operation. And what we can lose is the sense of love.

But Paul will also tell us in **Romans 8:38-39:** *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

⁹ *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*

5. **Truth #5** *We are justified by His blood*

We were made right with God by the blood of Jesus Christ, we will be saved from the wrath to come through Christ. That transaction covers past, present and future. And the wrath to come is the lake of fire.

¹⁰ *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.* ¹¹ *More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received reconciliation.***