

Access by Faith **Romans 5:1-2**

INTRO:

Last time we were here in **Romans 5**, we learned because we are justified by faith, we have God's peace in our lives. Moving on to **verse 2**, we learn of a second great blessing we enjoy because Christ has saved us. We also have access ***"Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."***

I. What Is This Access?

II. What Does This Access Mean To Us?

I. What Is This Access?

A. The word translated ***"access"*** in this verse means *"an approach," "an access,"* or *"an introduction."*

1. This word is rare in the New Testament. It appears here and in **Ephesians 2:18** ***"For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father."***

The only other place it appears is in **Ephesians 3:12**.

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him."

2. The issue seems to be direct access into the presence of the Living God.

B. What was Paul saying here? He wrote in **Romans 5:2**;

"Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand."

The ***"whom"*** here is the Lord Jesus Christ. Our justification is bound up in the person of Jesus Christ. Our ***"peace with God"*** is because of our justification by faith is also through the Lord Jesus Christ. In like manner our access into the grace in which we stand is also through our Lord Jesus!

C. What is this grace that we have access to through faith? The grace, or unmerited favor that Paul is thinking about is two-fold.

1. First, it is the grace given to us in the beloved One. We stood at the bar of God condemned and God was our judge. Now we stand in His presence as declared righteous, and God is our Father. I think of one of the great Old Testament pictures of our change of standing in Christ in **2 Samuel 9**. We read the great story of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan whom David spared and made as one of his sons. God also spared us and made us as one of His children. The

standing that we enjoy before God is not based on any merit that we have, but on the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Second, it is the grace of constant access to the throne room of the King of Kings. We can come at any time into the very presence of our King and receive a hearing. We need not wait for an appointment. We do not need to fear as we seek His face. Remember Esther? If she came to the king without an appointment and he decided he would not see her, she could be put to death. We have no such fear because the Lord of Glory has given us that access.

II. What Does This Access Mean To Us?

A. First, it means that if we have put my trust in Christ alone, we have a standing before God which is permanent and cannot be taken away. Paul underlines that we have (v.2) ***"access into the grace in which we stand."*** This is not a momentary experience, this is a permanent position.

B. Second, this access means we can be and should be constantly seeking the face of our God. Our access to the Father is through the only mediator, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We do not have to come to God indirectly through Mary or through the saints.

1. The writer of Hebrews tells us that we have a direct access to God through Christ alone.

Hebrews 10:19-22 "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

We can go directly to God ourselves.

2. The Apostle had exhorted us before in **Hebrews 4:14-16**

"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace in order that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

You do not need to pray to a saint or to Mary to get your requests heard by the living God. You can at any time, without appointment, come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy, and to find grace to help in time of need.

What Does This Mean to Us?

Do we realize the importance of having this standing before God? I think of two Old Testament passages. In **Psalm 1:4-6**, it says:

“The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

It also says in **Psalm 130:3-5**,

“If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope.”

Without salvation, justification, forgiveness of sins, we could not stand before God. However, because we have this grace of justification we can fear God we can trust Him, we can wait for Him.

Hymn #232 Without Him