

“Peace with God”
Romans 5:1
(Preached at Trinity, March 2, 2008)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. I’ve pointed out many times the major theme of **Chapters 1-4** of Romans is the essential doctrine of Justification by faith alone.
 - A. Paul began the subject back in **Chapter 1**
Romans 1:16-17 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
 - B. Again, in **Chapter 3**
Romans 3:23-24 – “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; ²⁴ Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”
Romans 3:28 – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”
 - C. In **Chapter 4** Paul devoted the entire chapter to this doctrine with the focus upon our father Abraham.
Romans 4:20-25 – “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. ²² And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. ²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; ²⁴ But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; ²⁵ Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”
2. Paul has looked at every aspect of this doctrine and answered every objection. Now as we enter **Chapter 5** Paul begins a new section of the Book of Romans that will continue through **Chapter 8**. He introduces it with the word, “Therefore.” He is tying this section to Justification by Faith. You might say that Paul is now going to make some practical application to the doctrine – the result of Justification by Faith.
 - A. Paul is now going to focus primarily upon two new themes:
Assurance of our salvation and our Union with Christ.
 - B. In other words, if you have believed on Him who raised Jesus from the dead, “who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification,” then your salvation is sure. Nothing shall ever cause you to lose it. Paul concludes this section in **Chapter 8** by writing,
Romans 8:35 – “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”
To which he answers in conclusion:
Romans 8:39 – “*nothing* shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

3. In these first two verses Paul describes three immediate consequences of this justification.
 - It gives us peace with God.
 - It enables us to stand firmly in the promise of God's blessings.
 - And it enables us to rejoice in the prospect of our future glorification.
4. This morning I want us to look at the first of these:

Romans 5:1 – "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

 - A. Notice the order of things. Paul places peace with God first and then he speaks of the blessings. It must be in that order. There are many today who try to put the blessings first. Come to Christ and you will have . . .you will receive. This is not the Gospel. You must first be reconciled with God. You must first come to peace with Him.
 - B. The primary purpose of the Gospel is not to give us blessings. There are blessings that come but the primary purpose is to reconcile us to God. There can be no blessings from God until we come to peace with Him.
5. What is this peace Paul is talking about?
 - I. First, Paul says we have peace with God
In other words, it isn't just any peace. It is peace with God.
 - A. Human beings were created in harmony and fellowship with God
 1. Adam had a true and proper reverence for God – he worshipped God in love and obedience.
 2. Adam had the confidence that God was working for his good – that he was in a true and proper communion with God
 - a. God was the source of all his comfort and confidence
 - b. Adam knew the ultimate peace – the peace that comes from knowing God is on your side, that He is working on your behalf.
 3. When Adam sinned all peace ended. Adam entered into a state of war with God. He saw God as his enemy.
 - a. Instead of his conscience leading him to God, it terrified him and led him to flee from God.
 - b. Adam feared God, mistrusted God, he no longer understood
 4. And God saw Adam as His enemy
Isaiah 59:2 – "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear."
 5. The lost man pretends that God is on his side. Everyone thinks they are in God's good favor – especially religious people (The Wide Road)
 6. In our lost state we are at war with God. Instead of being at peace with God we are at a constant state of war
Psalms 2:1-3 – "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."
** The word for "rage" literally means "to be in tumult"
 7. In our lost condition we are bound to this world and its corruptions and alienated from God and His blessings
Ephesians 4:17-19 – "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."

- B. Everything around us is plagued with hostility – it mirrors our alienation from God.
1. There are wars between nations – in my lifetime I have never seen a time when there has not been conflict somewhere in this world.
 2. There are conflicts in families – the divorce rate is still terribly high
 3. There are conflicts between employees and employers
 4. We look at the two main political parties in our nation and see they are most characterized by strife, partisanship and political wrangling
Even people within the same party fight.
 5. People cry out for peace but peace cannot be found
 - a. Some look to the government for help
 - b. Some turn to alcohol and drugs
 - c. Some vainly turn to this world's religions
 6. The chief problem with this world is they are at war with God
- C. There is no peace apart from ending hostility with God
1. Everyone vainly pretends we are all at peace with God. Everyone announces, "God loves you." We all pretend God is well-pleased with us
 2. The words of Jeremiah still shout clearly to our generation
Jeremiah 6:10-14 – "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. ¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with *him that is* full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned unto others, *with their* fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. ¹³ For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. ¹⁴ They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace."
 3. The lost man is not a peace with God. He is in an open war with God. Notice Paul says that justification brings peace with God. He is not talking about the peace of God. Only the Gospel of Christ can bring this peace. You will never have the peace of God until you are at peace with God.
 - a. Most of us are familiar with Philippians 4:6-7
Philippians 4:6 – "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- b. This verse is not talking about this peace – the “peace of God.” The peace that the Christian has knowing that God is in control even when things seem out of control.
- c. This verse, however, is talking about the “peace with God” brought through justification.

II. What is this peace? How do we describe it?

A. It is something we already have

- 1. This is one of the places where a general knowledge of the Greek grammar is helpful. The word translated “being justified” is in the aorist passive tense. In other words, Paul is referring to something completed, once for all.
NAS **Romans 5:1** – “Therefore having been justified by faith”
- 2. Paul is saying we have been justified and we have peace – it is already our possession. There is an air of confidence in Paul’s words
- 3. Listen to Paul’s words in 1 Timothy
2 Timothy 1:12 – “for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”
- 4. The man at peace with God is a man with confidence in his relationship with God.
 - a. Some base their hope in an emotional experience. It makes them feel good about themselves. They tell themselves that this must be of God. But then the emotion leaves or they enter into a hardship and the peace is gone.
 - b. Then there’s the one who made a decision for Christ and prayed a prayer. He tries to be faithful in church but there’s no peace.
- 5. When Christ is the focus of our faith, when we are resting in His merits then we have peace – a peace that cannot be taken away.
 “Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God.”

B. This peace is a complete reconciliation with God

Romans 5:1 – “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

- 1. Jesus Christ bore our sin on the cross – He stood in our stead
Romans 4:25 – “Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.”
- 2. In Christ we are brought to peace with God – full reconciliation.
- 3. God’s anger has been appeased—His wrath and curse removed
 - a. Paul taught this in **Chapter 3**
Romans 3:24-25 – “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: ²⁵ Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”
 - b. Harmony has been restored.
 - c. The redeemed man is no longer God’s enemy – we are at peace

C. This peace is the knowledge that God loves us

- 1. I’m not talking about the love that men boast of today. Everyone today believes God loves them. All they know is God’s common grace.

2. The man who is justified knows God's particular boundless love. He knows that in spite of His sin God loves him.
Romans 8:35 – "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"
3. If your peace is based upon something you have done or something you are doing or upon some religious experience your peace is hopelessly weighted down by sin. It is no peace for God's wrath is still kindled upon you.
4. Only Justification by faith alone can give peace. The one who believes knows that God loves him. This isn't just a sentimental feeling but it is based upon the facts of the Gospel, the historic facts of the crucifixion, the unfulfilling promises of God upon which we rest.
Romans 5:8 – "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

III. This peace is the ultimate strength of assurance

- A. Our assurance is built upon justification by faith alone
 1. God has declared you to be not guilty – do you understand the meaning of this?
 2. You no longer stand under the curse of the Law
 - a. As you examine yourself do you still see sin? Yes
 - b. But the redeemed man will not be condemned for his sin
 3. God is no longer angry with you – He never gets angry with you
 4. God is on your side – His is not against you
 5. God's favor is upon you – He is working good for you. You are at peace with God
- B. Too many Christians doubt their salvation because they still feel condemned by the Law.
 1. They don't know this peace because they don't understand justification
 2. They want to make their obedience as a condition for salvation instead of trusting in the righteousness of Christ.
 3. Justification cannot be earned by works of the Law
The Law can only condemn us because we are all transgressors
JESUS PAID FOR OUR SINS – HE HAS GIVEN US HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Conclusion:

1. Peace with God is only made possible through Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:19 – "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;"
Romans 5:9-10 – "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. ¹⁰ For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."
2. The redeemed man has received the greatest of gifts. Listen to these beatitudes.
Romans 4:6-8 – "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, ⁷ *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."
3. God's gifts can only be received. They cannot be earned or purchases. They are only given by grace.