

## Romans 5:1-2

“The Principle Made Personal”

We’ve spent the last several weeks developing the fact and coming to the conclusion that our justification before God is only possible due to the death and the subsequent resurrection life of Christ. When judged according to the measure of the law, we’re guilty. When judged according to the measure of the glory of God, we’re guilty. and When judged according to the standard of even our own conscience, we’re guilty. There’s not a soul alive beyond the age of say 2 who hasn’t willfully and knowingly violated the standard of their own conscience. “Mommy or daddy has told me ‘No’ I know it’s wrong, but I’m reaching for the cookie jar anyway.” Or whatever, we’ve all violated the conviction of our conscience at one point or another if not every single day. When you argue with your spouse, you know it’s wrong to get all upset and out of line that way, but you do it anyway, you’re guilty. You knew it was wrong to lust in that way, but you let your mind go there anyway, you’re guilty. and That’s the point proven from vs 18 of ch 1 all the way through vs 20 of ch 3. “Guilty, guilty, guilty before God!”

So if we’re to appear as righteous or justified in the sight of God it’s going to have to come in a way that’s outside of any arena we’ve discussed so far, all of which zero in on man’s ability to perform. If it’s up to us to do the right thing, we’re doomed. So the bible teaches, “*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,*” Rom 8:3 Translation: Jesus *did for us* what we could *never do for ourselves*. and So to keep this introduction semi-brief we’ve learned the righteousness of God *apart* from the law, or any doing of our own, (though it’s born witness *by* the law and the prophets) is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. We’ve all sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but we’re justified *freely* by His grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, through faith. God takes our imperfect faith in the *redeeming* power of Christ, and imputes to us, or accredits to us the perfect *righteousness* of Christ, who was delivered up to the cross because of *our* offenses, and was raised from the dead for the sake of *our* justification. That’s where we left off last week as you see there in vs 25 of ch 4.

Now Ch 5 introduces us to Paul’s *explanation* of the last 2 words of ch 4, “Our *justification*,” both the *blessings of* it (Vs1-11) and the *basis for* it (Vs 12-21). In ch 3 the *observation* was made, that the righteousness that God is looking for is apart from the law and comes through faith. In Ch 4 the *illustration* was made to support the observation, and Paul used both Ab the forefather of the nation of Israel and the forefather of all those who believe to illustrate his point as well as king David the most highly regarded king in all of the nations history. Proving unequivocally through them that God imputes righteousness to man *not* on the basis of any work of man but rather those who believe in, that is place their faith in Him and the promise of His Word. So as you survey vs 21 of ch 3 through around vs 22 of ch 4 you have an observation, an airtight illustration which supports it, then when you get to vs 23-25 of ch 4 Paul gives you the *interpretation* of the illustration.

The happenings in the life of Ab and king David weren't solely for the sake of themselves, but so that we might begin to catch on to the idea of justification through faith, and the *culmination* to which these *illustrations* point is found in the Lord Jesus who was delivered up for our offenses and raise for our justification.

The idea being, "You see, saints have been justified through faith in God, His Word *towards* them and His promises *for* them throughout all of history." and Its all been a foreshadowing of the fulfillment to be found in Christ, and our justification through faith in *Him*. Ch 5 brings the personal *application*, the blessings and benefits of our justification, notice.

Vs1-2

Vs1 begins with the conjunction, that word that connects the previous principle developed to the present personal application, "Therefore." I find that often times the word "therefore" serves as an indicator for us in scripture letting us in on the practical/personal application of the principle at hand, it moves me from principle, to practical. Perhaps you remember when Jesus was teaching the sermon on the Mt, He was speaking of how God feeds the birds of the air, and clothes the lilies of the field, and the principle at hand was the fact that God takes care of His own. Then Jesus said, "*Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*" Matt 6:31-33

The principle? God takes care of His own, "Therefore" and it becomes practical, "Don't worry about 'What are we going eat? What are we going to wear? What are we going to drink?' God knows your need, you seek Him, and He'll take care of you." and On and on we could go, practically anywhere you find a "therefore" in the scripture we can see this turn from principle to personal/practical. Paul told the Corinthians how sin in the body was like leaven in a lump of dough, it just takes a little to permeate and infect the whole lump. That was a principle he was developing for them, "Therefore" (he said) purge out the old leaven that you might become a new lump. In other words this is made personal to you by purging the person or peoples from your fellowship who are claiming to be believers who have blatant disregard for the word of God having no desire to repent of their sin and lead lives of holiness. Principle; unrepentant sin infects a fellowship. Personal/practical; purge the unrepentant blatantly rebellious individual. The proverbs put it like this, "*Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.*" Prov 22:10 and Here in ch 5 we see, "Therefore" and he highlights again the principle at hand, "having been justified by faith," (and Remember this is no *new* principle, the law and the prophets baring witness the same, Hab 2:4 "*Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.*") and now we have the transition into the practical, or personal application, "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

The 1<sup>st</sup> blessing, or benefit of justification *before* God? Peace *with* God, and notice who it is that is at peace with God, we are. The world is not, the unbeliever is not at peace with God, “*There is no peace, says the LORD, for the wicked.*” Isa 48:22 Now the unbeliever has a tendency to get angry with that thought, because they don’t generally consider themselves openly hostile *towards* or personal enemies *of* God. Sure there are those who vehemently voice their opposition against God, but most people don’t sport conscience feelings of hatred for God, or actively oppose His work, or seek to contradict His Word. At worst they’d consider themselves “neutral” before God. But the bible is clear that there’s no neutral ground before God, you’re either hot, or you’re cold. Jesus said, “*He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.*” Matt 12:30 He allows for *no* neutral ground, the *unsaved* individual is in actuality at peace with the things of the flesh, therefore by default *at war* with God. Later on we’ll read, “*...the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*” Rom 8:7 But here’s the good news, when we come to Christ, the war is over, He wins, we surrender and we have *peace* with God.

The verb translated, “We have” is in the present tense meaning that it’s a present on going linear action. Or to understand all that another way, many of the blessings we inherit in Christ are yet to come, this isn’t one of them, this is one we inherit immediately upon surrendering to Christ and it continues on throughout all time and eternity. This isn’t subjective, it’s objective, it’s not a feeling, its a fact. Through Christ *you have* peace with God.

We need to emphasize the kind of peace we’re talking about here, because the bible mentions more than one kind of peace in our relationship to God. For instance when Jesus was speaking to His disciples preparing them for His departure from this world He said, “*Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” John 14:27 What’s in view here is the peace that Jesus gives to the one who’s seeking *after* Him, trusting *in* Him, following along in step and in stride *with* Him, the tranquility of the soul that He gives you as you walk in His will. But I’ve personally found that that particular kind of peace can come and go depending upon what’s going on in my life and where I’m at in my walk with Him. Oh it’s always there *for me*, but I’m not always taking advantage of my access to *it*, perhaps I’m under pressure, or feeling somehow stressed and strained, weak and weary and that particular peace at times seems to elude me. But what’s in view here isn’t the peace of personal tranquility.

So we’re not speaking of a peace that Jesus has left *with* you as a disciple, nor are we talking about the peace *of* God that’s available *to* you as a believer. Remember these vs, “*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*” Phil 4:6-7 and Again, “*...let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body;*” Col 3:15

What's in view here? The personal peace of God Himself, what does God have to worry about? Nothing, He's God, He's got it all under control, He's at complete peace, and He's granted us access in Christ to His personal peace, there are times when everything is breaking loose in my life, for all intents and purposes I should be sleepless at night, worried all day, and distracted all the time. But somehow and for some reason (for which I don't understand) I'm ok, I have peace, I've given in to God in prayer, I know He's in control and I rest easy at night. I don't have any ulcers, I'm not all stressed out all the time, I grow weary at times sure, weary *in* the work, not *of* the work, but I'm not all the time freaked out over the work, or whatever situation may be going on. But I'm going to confess to you that it doesn't always go that way, that to is a peace that though it's always availed to me, I don't always avail myself to it. I don't always let the peace of God rule in my heart, sometimes I freak out.

But the peace that's in view here is a non-wavering, on going fact regardless of whether or not I sense it, feel right regarding it, or anything else, it's peace *with* God. and Peace with God is predicated upon you simply being in Christ, or not. Notice, "We have peace with God *through our Lord Jesus Christ*" If you're in Christ, you're at peace with God no matter what's happening circumstantially *in* your life, or breaking loose *around* your life, if you're not in Christ, you're not at peace with God. Peace *with God* comes exclusively *through* Jesus Christ We read in Col Ch 1 in regards to Christ, "*For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*" Col 1:19-20

Now let me remind you that the bible says nowhere that you now have peace with your flesh, or peace with the world, or peace with the devil. You'll still battle the flesh, you'll battle against the world and it's influence, you'll battle against Satan and his cohorts, but the battle against God is over. and Greater is He who is in you than He who is in the world, as a believer you're not fighting *for* victory, you're fighting *from* victory, there's a big difference. So, personal/practical benefit #1 of our justification? We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Vs2

Personal benefit #2 that comes to you being justified by faith in Christ? "Access by faith into this grace in which we stand." Access into the presence of God comes to you through Christ, by faith. For the Jew this would previously have been *unthinkable*, and for the Gentile (according to their mind frame) *impossible*. Because to see God face-to-face meant certain death, remember when God was giving the law at Mt Sinai, He came to Moses in a thick cloud. Later on after the people had consecrated themselves God called Moses back up to the top of the Mt and He told him to tell warn the people lest they break through to gaze at the Lord and perish. At one point Moses asked if He could see God's glory and God told him that He'd allow His goodness to pass before him, but that he couldn't see Him directly because no man could see His face and live.

When the tabernacle was built, and later on the Temple there were very strict boundaries set. A Gentile could only go into the outer courts and there was a sign on the wall that read if any Gentile crossed beyond that wall that he would be killed. The Jewish women could go just a little farther, and it didn't get much better for the Jewish men and even the priests. But only the high priest could enter the holy of holies and even at that it was only 1 day a year and he had to wear a robe with bells and pomegranates on the hem of his garment and if when in the holy of holies the bells quit ringing, they knew he had sin in his life and had been struck dead in the presence of the glory of God. But here's the glorious news, when Christ died, that veil that separated the holy place from the holy of holies was torn from top to bottom, (Matt 27:51). and That wall that had separated the Gentile domain was (in principle) torn down in Christ thereby granting everyone equal access into the holy presence of God, through Christ. That's why when Paul wrote to the Eph we read, "*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,*" Eph 2:14 and Shortly thereafter, "*For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*" Eph 2:18 So the boundaries that have separated man from God are torn down in Christ, the V.I.P. rope is lowered in Christ granting you full access.

When I was younger, man I was all about going to concerts and it was always cool to have a friend on the inside with an "all access" badge hung around his neck. Because that meant special privileges, free entry, perhaps meeting the band or getting an autograph, or guitar pick for me. Now there was nothing in me that gained me that access, but because of who I knew, of who I was identified with access was granted just the same. That's what we're reading of here in Christ.

There's a V.I.P. rope with impenetrable security outside that no one is breaking through. But Christ has all access, and because you know Him, and more importantly He knows you, He obtains for you the same access that He Himself has before the throne of the Father. That V.I.P. rope is unhooked and drawn back in Christ. Jesus put it like this, "*I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*" John 10:9 and Again, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*" John 14:6 Through *Christ* we have access.

Again you should realize that the verb tense of the phrase "have access" is in the perfect tense. What that says to you and me is that its an absolutely completed action with the result ongoing from the present time. The access you've been granted is (in Christ) an ever-present permanent possession, and it's (notice) "...into this grace."

So through Christ, by faith we have access into this grace...Grace, you've heard the acronym before, "G.od's R.iches A.t C.hrist's. E.xpense." It's the unmerited, undeserved, unearned favor of God that's lavished upon you in Christ. It's by grace we're *saved*, Eph 2:8 "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*" But what we're seeing here is that it's also this same grace in which we *stand*.

In which we are *sustained*, there's a common misconception that (though never stated outwardly) is demonstrated by the way so many of us live our lives personally that says, "I acknowledge being *saved* by grace but now I have to do all I can in order to be *sustained*." But as Paul taught the Galatians that the same way we received Christ we're to so walk in Christ. We received Him by no work of our own and we're not going to be sustained in Him or grow on in maturity in Him by any work of our own. We're to stand fast in the liberty with which Christ has made us free. Don't think that having done all to save you that God is going to somehow then turn the reigns over *to* you. We're *saved* by grace and we continue to *stand* in grace, we're sanctified by grace.

The phrase, "We stand," anyone willing to take a shot at what the tense of this particular verb is? It to is in the "Perfect" tense used in the sense of the *present*, so it carries the idea of a perfect or completed action that has present and perpetual ongoing effects. In other words, the only way you're *ever* going to stand before God is *in grace*, but that standing that you have is eternal in Christ. and To stand in grace means that I never have to worry about it being about me, but I can simply rejoice in that it's always about Jesus. I don't have to prove I'm worthy of God's love, I don't have to do something in order to gain access to God, I can rid my self of the "score sheet" mentality that's always trying to keep God on my side by the things I do or perhaps don't do. Because all of those things, permanent access to God, a permanent standing *before* God, (it's not like access to be brought in for an interview and then ushered out, no, there's a permanence there, I'm part of the family now) saving grace, sustaining grace, sanctifying grace, permanent peace with God, all those things are irrevocable here and now blessings and benefits of yours and mine, by the simple fact of being in Christ through faith.

One more thing to consider this morning, it's also of this grace that we, "...rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Peace with God takes care of your past, your sins are forgiven, having access *to* God perpetually standing in the grace of God takes care of your present, you can boldly approach the throne of grace to find ever-present help in your time of need. "Hope of the glory of God," takes care of your future, the bible promises that you will in Christ partake of the glory of God. "*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*" Rom 8:16-17 In 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor ch 3 we're told that we're being transformed into the image of Christ from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord. What a reason to rejoice!

Because you have hope of the glory of God. "Hope," something the world knows nothing of. The bible says, "*Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*" Eph 2:11-12

Translation: “with out God, with out hope.” Outside of Christ there is no hope, the bible teaches that Christ Himself is our hope. and I always like define exactly what I mean when we run across this word “Hope” in the bible because its drastically different than what we mean when we use the word in a traditional sense. “I *hope* I don’t get sick, I *hope* I get a pay raise soon, I *hope* my car lasts me another couple years.” “Hope” used in that sense of the word is to say, “Maybe it’ll happen, maybe it won’t.” There’s ambiguity and room for uncertainty there, but that’s not at all anywhere even close to what the bible speaks of when the scripture employs the word “Hope.” Hope in the biblical sense of the word speaks of a “Confident expectation and a guaranteed anticipation.” It speaks of absolute certainty, there’s no room for doubt in biblical hope. So when you read, “rejoice in *hope* of the glory of God.”

It’s not saying, “Maybe you’ll see and partake of God’s glory, maybe you won’t, but it’s good to sure hope so.” It’s saying, “Rejoice in the confident expectation, the guaranteed anticipation and the resolute/absolute certainty of the glory of God that you will both see and partake *in*.” That’s a practical/personal reality and benefit of being justified before God through faith in Jesus Christ “Hope” kinda brings new light to vs like, “...*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*” Col 1:27 doesn’t it? Or, “... *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,*” Titus 1:2 We’ll close with this thought concerning the hope of the glory of God, 1 John 3:2-3, “*Beloved, now we are children of God; and 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. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*” If you have the assurance that you’re going to see God as He is, that’ll serve as a purifying agent in your life. Our justification makes for peace *with* God, a standing in grace *before* God, and hope of the glory *of* God, past present and future, the principle made personal.

#### Prayer Points:

God we’re overwhelmed by the reality of all that You’ve provided for us in Christ. God teach us how to walk *by* and operate *in* the fullness of those provisions. Thanks You for the hope we have in You, the standing in grace that we’ve been granted before You, and the peace that we have *with* You and it’s all available to us in the precious gift of Your Son who was delivered up for our offenses and raised for our justification. Lord be there anyone here not found in Christ, having no hope, being with out You in the world, give them the strength to call upon You now.

The bible says that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. The one the Son sets free shall be free in deed, if you’ve never been set free from the snares of sin, the bondage therein, Jesus wants to set you free today. Declare you “Justified” in the sight of God, not because of anything you do, but because of your trusting in what He’s done, for you. Jesus laid down His life in your place there on the cross, poured out His life that you might have everlasting life. and If you want these benefits, these blessings that you’ve been hearing about today to become a personal practical reality in your life, than say “Yes” to Jesus, just open the door of your heart if you hear Him knocking and let Him in.