

Romans

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes”

– Romans 1:16

Peace With God Through Jesus Christ

- **Romans 5:1-5 – “Therefore...”**

- So much argument and understanding culminates in this transition, “Therefore...”!

- **This is one of the reasons Rom 5:1 is quoted and misapplied so often by those who teach a “faith only” salvation:**

- When Paul says in regards to Christians, “Therefore, having been justified by faith...,” what does he mean?
- In respect to the previous chapter, we are justified by faith *just like Abraham was*: an active, obedient, trusting faith
- Read the “*By faith*” statements in Hebrews 11: what does it mean that the ark was prepared “by faith,” or that the walls of Jericho fell “by faith”?
- **Paul is talking about active, obedient, trusting faith!**

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- **R.L. Whiteside makes the following point:**
 - Heb 11:29 – The Israelites passed through the Red Sea “by faith,” involving the whole crossing process, from shore to shore
 - I Cor 10:1-2 – Paul explains that the Israelites were “baptized” into Moses in the Red Sea crossing, i.e. this “baptism” was “by faith”
 - Remember, this Old Testament passage was written for our learning (I Cor 10:6)
 - Gal 3:26-27 – Analogously, we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ
 - “For” (i.e. *because*, Greek *gar*) we were all baptized into Christ
 - For the Christian, being “justified by faith” involves everything that saves us, from the first hearing of the gospel, to the first act of obeying the gospel, even through living faithful to the end!
 - **This is the same way that Abraham was justified by faith!**

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- **Romans 5:1-5 – “we have peace with God through...”**
 - i.e. the debt that was against us has been paid by Christ: our account has been settled by the Prince of peace (Isa 9:6)
 - Sin caused the separation (Isa 59:2) and rightly merited death (Rom 6:23; Eze 18:4)
 - Since Christ paid the price, we have been justified in the sight of God through faith, taught by the gospel of peace (Rom 10:15)
 - So, this is not inner peace, though reconciliation with God is essential to peace with one’s circumstances (Phil 4:6-8)
 - And similarly, peace with God through Christ affects the Christian’s attitude and outlook in other ways:

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- **Romans 5:1-5 – “we have peace with God through...”**
 - We stand in God’s grace – that is, with assurance we rest in the **faithfulness of God**, who did not spare His only Son (Rom 8:32)
 - We all stumble in so many things – how can any of us be saved?
 - “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matt 19:26)
 - We “rejoice in hope of the glory of God” – i.e. that we will be with Him in His likeness and glory (cf. Phil 3:20f; I John 3:1f; Rom 15:13)
 - We glory in trials, through which God moulds us (cf. Jam 1:2-3)
 - *Tested* faith produces perseverance, character, hope – spiritual maturity that does not fade with adverse outward circumstances
 - *Great irony*: the harder the devil tries to wound you through trials, the stronger your faith and resolve *if you lean on God*

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- **Romans 5:6-11 – What reason do we have for this assurance, rejoicing, and hope?**
 - “For when we were still without strength...”
 - “*for*”: Paul gives a *reason* for the outlook described in vs. 1-5
 - In short: *if God was willing to sacrifice His Son for you when you were lost, what blessing would He possibly withhold from you now that you stand by faith in His Son.*
 - *Before Christ*: we were dead spiritually dead (Eph 5:1), having made ourselves God’s enemies by choosing sin (Isa 59:1-2)
 - God loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His Son, *even then!* See John 3:16; I John 4:7-11.
 - Jesus, God’s Son, loves us so much that He was willing to sacrifice His life for us, *even then!* See John 10:17-18, 15:13.

Peace With God Through Jesus Christ

- **Romans 5:6-11 – What reason do we have for this assurance, rejoicing, and hope?**
 - *Now with faith in Christ:* what reason do we have to ever doubt God's faithfulness and love? We stand in Him!
 - *We will be saved from the wrath of judgment* – if He was willing to sacrifice His Son while we were His enemies, will we not survive His judgment now as His spiritual children?
 - *We shall be saved by His life* – in Christ's resurrection, we have assurance of our own resurrection (I Cor 15), and forever have an Advocate before God (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; I John 2:1)
 - *We rejoice in God who offers us this reconciliation in Christ*
 - **Rather than fearing God and dreading His judgment, God has brought us to peace with Him in the love of His Son – what reason to rejoice!**

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