

## **Peace With God**

(Rom 5:1-2)

- Read Rom 5:1-11

- I. This section runs from Rom 5:1-8:39 and proves the complete certainty and assurance of God's Plan of Redemption under 3 themes:
  - A) Rom 5:1-11- Because it is God Who planned it and does it
  - B) Rom 5:11-21- Because of our union with Christ
    - 1. Rom 6:1-7:25- Paul deals with objections to this point
  - C) Rom 8:1-30- Because of the power and work of the Holy Spirit
    - 1. Rom 8:31-39- Grand conclusions
- II. Rom 5:1- Peace with God
  - A) Peace automatically involves 2 or more parties, therefore we must consider peace from both directions
    - 1. This is where a proper understanding of the divisions of this book is so important for context
      - i. Rom 1:16-18- Remember Paul's theme
      - ii. Rom 1:19-3:20- Paul went to great lengths to prove the righteousness of God's wrath upon all men
        - a) Modern Christendom hates the doctrine of God's wrath, and thereby can never be at peace with Him
        - b) "God is love" only crowd can never understand reconciliation, nor can they see their need of a Mediator
          - 1) But the true Christian fully knows there can never be peace between God and himself apart from the Lord Jesus Christ and His work as High Priest
  - B) Newer translations read "let us have peace with God"
    - 1. But this is not an exhortation, it is a conclusion drawn from the doctrine of justification by faith
      - i. Rom 5:3-5- And we can have this assurance even while in tribulation or under attack by the devil and the world
  - C) Why there can be no peace apart from Christ on either side:
    - 1. Rom 1:18- God is holy and just and as such MUST condemn all sin and all sinners
    - 2. Rom 3:23- ALL have sinned and come short of God's requirement
    - 3. BOTH parties must be reconciled, and this means God first of all
      - i. The sinner must be brought to the place where he not only sees his offenses as against God, but rightly owns himself as under His wrath

- a) Rom 8:5-7- Even worse, the natural man is at war with God, and that war cannot end without a peace treaty
      - 1) Rom 10:15- “The gospel of peace”
        - (a) How?- Rom 3:24-26
  - D) Justification is a forensic action that changes our relationship to God, and it is solely the work of God alone, not man
    - 1. Rom 5:11- From “enemies” to Rom 8:14-17- to “sons”
      - i. Rom 1:16-17- This is why Paul was not ashamed of the gospel and wouldn’t be silenced
        - a) Example of VJ day
- III. Paul’s conclusion on justification is “peace” and no longer “wrath”
- A) Rom 8:1- “Therefore now no condemnation....”
    - 1. This is the greatest test of justification, “has the enmity be removed?”
      - i. The moment a person realizes the truth about God, and His wrath in judgment, that person is at once filled with fear and dread
      - ii. Nothing that person can ever do will bring true peace, that can only come when he sees the God has been satisfied in Christ
  - B) Results of true peace with God
    - 1. The mind of the believer is at rest concerning our relationship to God as Father
      - i. The work of Christ always begins with revelation to the mind of man (doctrine) and it is through the mind that the spirit and will are affected
      - ii. Between “conviction” and “justification” there can be no true peace
        - a) But once a person truly understands justification by faith in Christ, that allows them to see “how” it is possible for God to no longer be angry with them, and can in fact justify the ungodly while still sinners
        - b) We must grasp this doctrine or there can be no peace
          - 1) But simply knowing the doctrine is not justification, the spirit and will of the person must be gained by it
      - iii. Our “mind” must be satisfied, a simple religious experience or a sacrament cannot give peace, because the mind has understood the enmity
    - 2. The believer now knows that God loves him, and can believe that in spite of his being a sinner, for God has been satisfied concerning his sin
    - 3. The believer can answer the attacks of his own conscience concerning his position and relationship to God
    - 4. The believer can answer the attacks of the devil
      - i. Newton Hymn Approach My Soul the Mercyseat
      - ii. Rev 12:9-11- “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb”

5. The believer loses his fear of death/judgment/hell/wrath
  - i. Heb 2:14-15- Deliver them from fear of death
6. The believer can still do all of this even we he falls into sin
  - i. Sin can make us doubt our salvation and the devil uses it to accuse our own conscience
  - ii. A Christian may be affected with these doubts, and even downcast, but this is always because he is looking at self and not Christ. He has forgotten the truth concerning justification by faith
    - a) If a sin can rob us of this peace permanently, we never had it to begin with
  - iii. The believer will finally be brought to a place where he can say “who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect, it is God Who has justified us”

#### IV. Conclusions

##### A) Faith is at war and must fight

1. True faith always comes out victorious in the end
2. Rom 4:19-21- Example of Abraham looking at his dead body
3. 2 Tim 4:7- “I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith”
  - i. MLJ example of the needle of a compass always returning to true north

##### B) True faith doesn’t always remain in nor possess full assurance

1. Remember there is “weak faith” and it can be shaken easily, but if it is true, it will be brought back to look at Christ alone
  - i. The devil will come and say, “you don’t resemble Hudson Taylor, so you must be lost”

##### C) There is a “false peace” (Heb 6:4-7, 1 John 2:19)

1. False peace is usually in word only
  - i. These types are often reassuring themselves without any true fruits
    - a) 2 Tim 3:5- “Having a form of godliness without the power of it”
  - ii. These types are often reassuring themselves by themselves
    - a) “I know that I know....”
    - b) Always standing on a conversion experience rather than fruits of the Spirit
    - c) Always standing on their “belief”
2. False peace often claims they have no doubts at all
  - i. The devil doesn’t question his own counterfeit
3. False peace is generally unaffected by preaching or the reading of the scriptures, or reading about the experiences of the great saints
4. False peace produces a flippant attitude, a boastful standing and arrogant security
  - i. “I rebuke thee satan.....”

- a) Matt 5:1-11- Compare the humble be-attitudes of those made “poor in spirit”
- 5. False peace is most often only interested in the forgiveness of sins, never hungering after righteousness and holy living
  - i. Heb 12:14- Without holiness (not sinlessness), no man will see God
- 6. False peace is generally antinomian and either lightly affected or unaffected at all by falling into sin
  - i. The true Christian is shaken by his sins, and grieves, and comes under the attack of the accuser of the brethren
- D) True peace is the opposite of all of these
  - 1. Never lighthearted about sin
  - 2. Humble, and praises God for His mercy, is most often amazed that He has saved them at all
  - 3. Careful about life and desiring to serve God and to be pleasing to Him that has given His life for them
    - i. 1 John 3:3- “He which hath this hope in him purifieth himself...”
    - ii. 1 Tim 1:19- “Faith and a good conscience....”
    - iii. 1 Tim 3:9- “Holding faith in a pure conscience...”
    - iv. Tit 3:9- “Careful to maintain good works....”