

## Access Into Grace

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice (exult) in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### ❖ Review of Chapter 4

- The text leads us to remember Chapter 4...
- Paul starts out what we have designated as Chapter 5 by saying:
  - **Therefore, since we have been justified by faith...**
  - Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness

### ❖ Introduction

- **Let's feel small today... My hope is that we feel small before God today...**
  - That we view God like Daniel, and Isaiah and John
  - They all fell down before God... realizing their frailty before a mighty God
  - Their hearts and minds were brought to a place of humility before God
- **We will feel small when we Consider the Magnitude of God**
  - When we consider the magnitude of His greatness...
  - That He could create all things out of nothing
  - The vastness of the universe was spoken into being by our God
    - **The heavens declare his handiwork** the scriptures say...
    - And it is with this God we must answer to
- **There is much to learn today... and all of it is very practical for you...**
  - I sometimes think of my walk with God like:
    - A man going on a great journey with lots of challenges
- **These verses give us many practical tools for our journey...**
  - And you can use them if you remember to take them with you
  - And if you learn how to use them....

### ❖ Outline

- 1) We Have Peace With God
- 2) We Have Obtained Access Into Grace
- 3) We Rejoice in the Hope of the Glory of God
- 4) We Rejoice in our Sufferings that Lead us To Hope
- 5) We Have God's Love Poured Out on Us.

### ❖ One More Thing:

- **As means of an introduction... You need to know that God is very purposeful...**
  - There are no accidents with God...
  - To be sure... God does allow sin and rebellion...
- **We see two wills of God weaving together throughout scripture...**
  - God's will of decree... and His will of command...
  - **God's will of command is his will that no one sin**
    - That no one die... that all come to Him

- **God's will of decree is that He allows men to rebel against Him**
  - And He judges and condemns rebellious man
- **I say that because I want you to see that God is Purposeful**
  - God has a plan in your life. Nothing is a surprise to God
  - God does not react... Nothing ever occurs to God
  - **In the same way that God had a purpose for Joseph while he was in prison**
    - And with Moses when he was put into that basket
    - And with Jesus when He went to that cross
    - And with Paul as he suffered hardships...
  - **God has a plan for your life... He is purposeful in His work in you...**
    - Never lose sight that God is working in His children...
    - He is working in them so that He might glorify Himself in them
    - And when God is glorified in your life... **You will be satisfied with God**

## ❖ 1) We Have Peace With God

- **Therefore, since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **Peace with God is one of the most beautiful gifts that could ever be given to man...**
  - **To be at peace is beautiful....**
    - For the most part... we live in a country at peace...
    - Where you live at least, is peaceful..
    - You likely live in an area where you can go to sleep at night and not be overly worried
  - **Contrast this with living in some areas of the middle east**
    - There are wars and fightings all around
    - You never know when the fighting will affect your family...
    - This is turmoil... You live and feel unpeaceful
- **Our Peace with God is based on our being justified by faith**
  - Peace comes when we have **faith....** Our **account** is made right with God...
  - **And our faith is not just an abstract faith...** the faith is in something concrete...
    - And the answer is in the text...
      - ◆ **Through our Lord Jesus Christ...**
  - **Therefore Notice:**
    - Peace with God comes to man first and foremost
      - ◆ because God sent His Son Jesus into the World
      - ◆ This is the declaration the angels made when announcing the birth of Jesus
      - ◆ **Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"**
    - **Jesus came to bring peace between man and God...**
      - ◆ So, why did we need peace?
- **The Text Assumes we were once not at Peace with God....**
  - **Since we have been justified by faith... we have peace with God...**
    - The reason we needed peace between us and God is because there was no peace...
      - ◆ **Now... before I go any further... I want you to understand that:**
        - There will be no peace for some people
        - Jesus coming does not mean God is at peace with all of mankind
          - This could not be further from the truth...
      - ◆ **I say this to warn you:**
        - Don't sit there this morning if you are not right with God...

- And here me say that you are at peace with Him...
- I do not know if you are or not...
- **Why was there no peace between man and God?**
  - We were his **enemies**... not at peace with God
    - Later in this chapter you see Paul describing our status before God without Christ
      - ◆ **verse 10: "If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God"**
      - ◆ We were enemies against God
  - **Man was in open rebellion against their creator...**
    - When a subject of a kingdom rebels against their leaders... they become enemies of state...
    - As enemies... they will be hunted down and brought to justice.
    - Depending on what they have done, their penalty will be issued...
  - **Scriptures teach that men had rebelled against God by their sin**
    - **Romans 1:21 <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,**
    - Man's heart and mind think like this:
      - ◆ **"Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice?" Exo. 5:2.**
      - ◆ **"What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have if we pray unto him?" Job 21:15**
        - This is the natural inclination of the heart of man...
        - This is who you are by nature... without God stepping in...
        - Men do not naturally see God as beautiful and glorious and deserving of all honor
        - They naturally rebel
          - Their wills are against God, affections are against God, and practice is against God
    - **I Personally Believe.... Our Enmity toward God comes because He is God and We are Not**
      - ◆ We want to be the gods of our own life...
      - ◆ Anyone that stands in our way is our enemy
  - **God was not happy with our rebellion... as a matter of fact He was very angry**
    - In the same that we were appalled by what happened to our country on 9/11
    - We wanted whoever was responsible to pay
    - **God is angry with rebellion in His kingdom...**
      - ◆ **Romans 1:18 "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."**
    - **God's anger at our rebellion is our main problem in life.**
      - ◆ If God is decided to pour out his wrath on us we would be in in a terrifying position.
  - **Remember as we began studying Romans...**
    - We asked the question what is man's greatest danger...
    - Many of you said sin, or satan or ourselves...
    - And we learned that it is actually the **wrath of God...**
- **So, clearly... we see that we were not at peace with God...**
  - But praise be to God... God Himself brought us peace through Jesus Christ...
- **We Can Now Have Peace With God Through Jesus**
  - This is summed up nicely later in this chapter...
    - **Romans 5:9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**
    - **Isaiah 53:5 ... upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,**
    - **John 16:33 "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**
    - Here we see a precursor of what is coming.... Because peace with God does not mean peace with the world...

➤ **How Amazing it is to Know that we who were once enemies to God**

- Have been granted peace with Him
- Notice... there is more than just peace with God... (ALSO)

❖ **2) We Have Obtained Access Into Grace**

- <sup>2</sup>Through him we have **also** obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand

➤ **Grace is more than a word... More than a concept**

- Grace is the foundation of everything we have in God...

➤ **Look into the text here...**

- How do obtain access into the grace in which we stand?
- Well... it is by **faith**...

➤ **By Faith:**

- We were **justified** before God...
  - Which led to our **peace** with God
- **Also:** it grants us access into this **grace** in which we stand....

➤ **Grace is an amazing gift from God...**

- Grace is the unearned favor of God...
- And, there is an infinite endless supply of it for God's people...

➤ **Grace is the Initiator of all good things for us**

- I want you to understand that we need Grace in every step of our life...
- The faith that was like a key to grant us access to grace...
- Was **given** to us by the grace of God
- Grace is at the **beginning** of the work of God...
- Grace send Jesus... Grace sends us the gospel... Grace **grants** us faith to believe
- Our **faith** then **grants** us access into **more** and more grace

➤ **Here Paul describes the grace as:**

- **this grace in which we stand**

➤ **Standing is opposed to falling and failing...**

- Now, I think Paul says this like this on purpose...
- Because He wants to show us that there is grace for us in our **trials**
- Grace that will help us to **stand**....

➤ **Before He goes into explaining how all of that works...**

- He stops us for a second and almost reminds us of how we ought to respond...

❖ **3) We Rejoice in the Hope of the Glory of God**

- **and we rejoice (exult) in hope of the glory of God.**

➤ **The grace that grants us faith that gets us access to more grace**

- Should **cause** you to rejoice in what God is doing...
- Paul says we rejoice in hope of the glory of God...

➤ **We ought to exult, or rejoice at what God has done...**

- The glory of God here in this text... **is**... the work of Jesus Christ...
- Our rejoicing is in the "Peace bringing" work of Jesus Christ
- Which is the "hope bringing" glory of God

➤ **Our rejoicing is in:**

- We were once enemies and strangers to God... rebellious by nature
- And God sent His Son who lived a perfect sinless life
- He was then arrested and charged with blasphemy for claiming to be God
- Although He proved it by many signs and wonders
- **Jesus was then crucified on a cross... taking our sins... bearing the wrath of God**

- He who knew no sin, became sin for us
  - God laid on him the iniquities of us all
  - **At last, Jesus breathed his final breath as He said it is finished...**
    - Jesus had finished the sin and death destroying work He was sent to accomplish
  - **He was buried, and then in a display of open victory**
    - Jesus was resurrected, He was risen from the grave...
    - Having paid for our sins, Jesus rose because death can not hold God
    - It has no power over sinless God
  - **Our rejoicing is in the Hope of the glory of God that this brings....**
    - The glory of God is in the gospel of Jesus... that is the glory of God
  - **Oh how we should respond** in our hearts and minds and then actions this morning
    - See what God has done for you
  - **To Exult...** refer back to chapter 4 and see God has not only done a great thing for you
    - He also has an inheritance in store for you
  - **Now: The question is: Do you believe? Do you have reason to rejoice?**
    - I am currently trying to witness to a client in the medical field...
    - This person is very smart and knows lots of stuff...
    - **And she believes we are all energy... and just like quantum physics says**
      - Energy can not be created or destroyed... only transformed
      - And that is a true statement in physics based off our understanding of the universe
        - ◆ In a closed system...
    - **Now... she is very smart... and I am trying to help her understand that there is**
      - An intelligent God that brought all of this energy into being
      - Which she does not deny a supreme being
      - She just thinks that maybe all religions lead us to this being
      - That maybe he created all of them
    - **She believes the Bible to be written by men...**
      - She does not believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit
      - And maybe because she has never studied and seen the countless fulfilled prophecies
  - **In the End... She has heard and will hear the gospel...**
    - That Jesus claims to be the only way to God...
    - She will be faced with a decision... Will she believe it?
    - Or will she let her limited knowledge of how the universe exists interfere with believing
  - **It is the same for you here today... Do you believe in what Jesus has done?**
    - And if you do... then you should **rejoice** in the “Glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus”
  - **But WAIT! There is more to rejoice in...**
    - And here is where things get really practical for you today...
- ❖ **4) We Rejoice in our Sufferings that Lead Us to Hope**
- **<sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame,**
- **Rejoice in our Sufferings...**
- What? We are going to suffer? As Christians?
    - Well... of course... haven't all men suffered?
    - And you add a new layer when you quit being friends with the World and are friends with God
    - You can't be friends with both...
  - **What are sufferings?**
    - This word means afflictions...

- ◆ A good sense of the word would be: an oppressive state of physical, mental, social or economic adversity
- **So it is anything that causes us adversity...**
  - ◆ Physical and mental ailments like cancer or depression, Sadness, grief
  - ◆ Someone speaking evil against you
  - ◆ Your car not cranking, losing your job, losing a friend, a fight with family
  - ◆ Death, difficulty paying your bills
  - ◆ Maybe someone is against you because you are a Christian
  - ◆ Maybe someone is out to take from you and harm you
    - Simply because they are selfish and want to harm you to get what they want
- **Let me tell you what I know of afflictions:**
  - ◆ They are never ever any fun... No one wakes up and longs for trials
  - ◆ And... I am not saying they come from God... although they may
  - ◆ In any case... He allows them
- **Remember where I started us this morning?**
  - God has a purpose for you? You must **know** this to handle sufferings
- **So... you can let them break you, or they can make you....**
  - God has a purpose in allowing you to struggle while in this body....
- **We are called to rejoice in them.... Like the apostles:**
  - Acts 5:41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.
- **Sufferings produce endurance**
  - **What is endurance?** Another word for perseverance
    - The power to withstand hardship or stress
  - **When I was in High School I ran the two mile...**
    - The first time I ran it... was at a track meet as a dare
    - I had no idea if I could do it... and my teammates didn't think I would finish
    - I endured that race... then I began to train for it...
    - And each time I ran, I suffered through the pain
    - But it created endurance in me...
  - **There are different kinds of endurance or perseverance...**
    - my example is one of physical athletic endurance
    - there is also mental and spiritual and emotional perseverance
  - **So, when you struggle through trials and afflictions...**
    - And you put your trust and hope in God you will indeed endure... and persevere
    - To get through all of it... you will need to keep your **eyes** on God...
    - Looking at Christ will give you **Hope** to get through it all...
    - Which... as you will see in the end... will give you **more** Hope
  - **One more thing to notice here: You should know this... You need to know this...**
    - Look at the text... **knowing that suffering produces endurance**
    - You need to **know** what is going on... You should **know** God is at work in you at all times
    - Never lose sight of this... From this point on you need to **know** what God is doing...
    - **Know** the direction in which your sufferings are taking you
- **Endurance produces Character**
  - **What is character?** Here it could be translated "proven character"
    - You have been tested to be genuine...
  - **Even in the face of persecution or severe trials...**

- Your faith has been proven... the character of who you are has been proven
- You know it, God knows it and so do others...
- Your sufferings have proven where your trust is... where your hope is...

- **In the End:** You know who you are... You know who you believe in

#### ➤ **Character produces Hope**

- The end results of all those tough things you go through is Hope...
  - You start out with Hope... and it helps you get through...
  - And also you end with Hope....
  - But a greater Hope... a stronger Hope..

#### ➤ **Hope Does not put us to Shame**

- So, no matter what the world around you thinks...
- You will not be moved... you will not be shaken...
- **You have an immovable Hope in God Almighty...**
  - But... you do not get to this kind of Hope without a little struggle along the way
  - Without God proving Himself strong in all of these things...

#### ➤ **So, in the end... We rejoice in our sufferings not because we are suffering...**

- But because we see God's good work going on in us...
- And we know that in the end... it will produce more HOPE in us that does not bring us shame
- **James says something similar to Paul:**
  - James 1:2-4 <sup>2</sup>Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup>for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup>And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- **Paul reminds us of his trials**
  - 1 Corinthians 4:9 <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

#### ➤ **One More Thing:**

- **Let me just say a word about discipline...**
  - When you struggle through trials and afflictions it is important to notice if it is discipline
  - The results are similar either way...
  - If you are faced with a trial due to your disobedience to God or just a trial...
    - ◆ They both are to produce Character and Hope
- **But... your discipline will be shorter if you repent....**
  - And God will not discipline again if you have repented
  - I want you to always remember to examine yourselves and your walk with God...
  - **If there is sin in your life... God is going to work in His children to remove it...**
    - ◆ It is ever so painful at times.... Almost unbearable...
    - ◆ So, be wise and repent so you do not have to continue to go through it

#### ❖ **5) We Have God's Love Poured Out on Us**

- <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

➤ We will pick up here next week...

#### ❖ **Let me finish where it all starts.... With Grace**

- Paul experienced a very painful afflictions... and He begged God for deliverance from it...
  - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 <sup>7</sup>So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me,

to keep me from becoming conceited. <sup>8</sup> Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. <sup>10</sup> For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- **There are worse things than hardships...**
  - And that is sin and pride and rebellion against God...
- **Let God's grace be enough for you in your times of weakness...**
  - Let God's grace comfort you...
- **The key to allowing God's grace to work in you like this:**
  - Is as always: **Faith**
  - You must trust God even in your weaknesses and trials...
    - **This is faith...**
- **And as we remember from the beginning... Faith grants us access into that Faith in which we stand...**
- **We must stand...**
  - Paul encourages us to put on the whole armor of God
  - **Ephesians 6:13** <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand** firm.

#### ❖ Invitation

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