

Blessed With Peace, Growth, And Hope – Romans 5:1-5

Bible Study ~ 6/1/16

Grace Church of Lockeford

1. Peace With God vv. 1-2

There are two kinds of peace that we see in Scripture. Peace with God and the peace of God. What is spoken of here is peace with God. Why do we need peace with God? Look down at *v. 10*. We will examine it next week but it answers the question. Also *Ephesians 2:11-12*; *Colossians 1:21*. We were separated from God! Without hope! We were his enemies! There needed to be peace. This peace comes as we are justified by faith through our Lord Jesus Christ. This verse explains exactly how we are justified. By faith and through our Lord Jesus Christ. We place our faith in Christ and that is what Justifies us. *Ephesians 3:11-12*. When we place our trust in Him, He becomes our Lord. This means He is our master, He is to be obeyed and followed. He is also our Jesus the Christ. He is the Messiah! He is God in the flesh! It is always significant when this full title “Lord Jesus Christ” is used. It encompasses His humanity, Deity, and authority. It is only after we have peace with God that we are able to have the peace of God. The peace that passes all understanding is a product of the HS that He produces in us as we yield ourselves to Him laying our burdens at the Cross and trusting the Lord for the future.

Paul goes on in verse 2 to tell us another benefit of our faith in Christ. Christ gives us access by faith to the grace of God which enables us to stand and brings rejoicing in our hope (confident expectation) of the glory of God. It is through Jesus Christ that we have access to the grace of God. Think about this with me. The most meaningful and powerful expression of God’s grace is the person and work of Jesus Christ. This grace is what enables us to stand before the Lord. We plead nothing but the blood of Jesus. Jesus Christ, and the grace that His sacrifice gives access to, also causes us to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. What Christ has done in saving and sanctifying and glorifying us is all to the glory of God. We have the confident expectation of being to the praise of His glory. And in some way we don’t fully understand, we participate in that glory. These are huge blessings! These in themselves would be more than enough. But that isn’t all. **Paul next discusses...**

2. Growth Through Tribulation vv. 3-4

At first tribulation doesn’t seem like a blessing. But Paul offers us a new perspective here. He proclaims that we can glory in tribulation! Glory = *boast. To exult, to display or proclaim publicly a satisfied contentment*. How can we boast in tribulation? Because of what we know. We know that tribulation produces perseverance. Perseverance = *steadfastness. The power to withstand hardship or stress; especially the inward fortitude necessary*. The more hardships and trials we endure, the better able to handle them we become. Produces = *to cultivate. To prepare someone or something for use, especially by working it (like soil)*. God uses trials to till the soil of our lives. To prepare it to produce fruit! What I love about this verse is that the boasting in tribulation arises from what we know. This is not an experiential knowledge. This is a knowledge gained from reflecting and thinking. When we stop and consider, reflecting on the nature of tribulation, we realize that it produces the ability to endure trials and hardship. We also realize that apart from these tribulations we cannot grow! We cannot produce fruit! So we must glory and boast in it because that is how we grow. *James 1:2-4*.

As we endure, as fruit is produced and the ground of our lives broken up, character comes. This is the idea of *proven character or dependability. It is the quality of being proven to be dependable or reliable*. This is the result of the perseverance produced in our lives by trials! It is only through testing that we can prove we are dependable and that our character is true! Bed I built. Had to come a point when we tested it! Until that moment we don’t know for sure if it is dependable. The more we test it, the more we trust it. That’s what Paul has in view here. The more dependable and reliable we demonstrate ourselves to be the more we understand the dependable nature of Christ, that is where our hope lies. Hope = *expectation. A reasonable and confident expectation of a future event*. We have a confident expectation in our future glorification with Christ! We have the confidence that we will stand! And so Paul

demonstrates how tribulation and trial produce growth. So we can see trials as a blessing because apart from them there can be no growth, the soil of our hearts remains hard. **We are blessed to have peace with God, we are blessed to have growth. Finally, we are blessed with...**

3. Hope That Strengthens v. 5

The confident expectation in the future that we have will not disappoint. We have the HS as our guarantee, our down payment that we will receive what God has promised us in Christ. Eternal life with Him! Our hope doesn't disappoint because of God's love. What an awesome picture! We can be confident that we will not be disappointed because of God's love poured out in our hearts. Poured out = *to be expressed, shed, to be or become expressed without restraint*. God poured His agape love into our lives without restraint. This love is poured out by the HS who was given to us. 3 passages bear on this point. [2Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:1-8 \(5\); Ephesians 1:13-14](#).

The presence and reality of the HS in our lives is the proof, the guarantee that the Lord will do what He has promised in regards to our eternal destiny. All of this comes through Jesus Christ, through faith in Him. What a blessing it is to trust in this one who gave His life for us! In Him and Him alone we have peace, growth, and hope. May the truth of His Word change how we view everything.

CHALLENGE: As you enjoy peace with God, embrace trials that you might grow, and cling to the hope guaranteed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.