

At Peace

March 29, 2020

Romans 5:1-11



Can We Have Peace in the Midst of Coronavirus¹

You know the feeling you got when you first heard there was no toilet paper at the stores, or you turned the corner at the grocery store to find the shelves empty? Anxiety creeps up our necks and into our heads and heartbeat quickens.

It's times like these that our faith is put to the test. Do we throw up our hands and join the complaining, the doomsday talking, the fear, the chaos? We are living in a situation we've never found ourselves in before. The challenges seem bigger than we know how to handle – social distancing, church closures, unemployment...

What if we could walk through this difficult struggle with peace?

In Romans 5, Paul points us to the reality of a true peace, a peace that is found only through our justification as we accept the truth of the gospel message². This peace that Paul teaches about is an assurance of our salvation through Christ. It is a lack of fear for the worldly issues we face and a contentment in our present circumstances.

Peace with God comes with hope, the ability to rejoice in our sufferings, the experience of God's love and the gift of the Holy Spirit's presence. Living for what God has in mind for us, no matter what we suffer along the way, we will discover the joy of being at peace right here and right now. (excerpts by Micah Maddox¹ and Woody Walls²)

Justified With Benefits (Romans 5:1-5)

- Paul summarizes the entire letter up to this point **"being justified by faith"**
 - Every action has a cause and effect. e.g. The coronavirus makes us sick.
 - Just as sin has an effect so does our faith in Jesus.
- What are the benefits (effects) of being justified?
- First, we have **"peace with God."** Through the actions of Jesus, we are justified through Him.
 - The peace Jesus left us is not the absence of conflict or suffering in the world, the peace Jesus gives is because He has conquered the world. He is the God of peace.
- Second, we have **"access into this grace."**
 - Paul reminds us all blessings are the result of God's grace.
- Third, we have **"hope of the glory of God."**
 - Hope is a confident expectation that God will act to complete what He began in Christ.
- Virtues of suffering?
 - Patience leads to experience which leads to hope.
- The love of God by the Holy Ghost is given to us!
 - **Is suffering the opposite of hope and peace?**

CAUSE
&
EFFECT



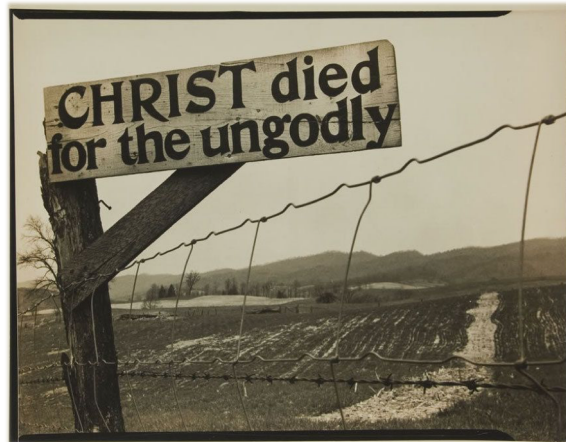
**"Therefore being justified by faith,
we have peace with God through
our Lord Jesus Christ:"**

Romans 5:1 (KJV)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" ([John 14:27](#)).

Justified Through His Death (Romans 5:6-8)

- **“In due time”** – God’s perfect timing
 - “when the fulness of the time was come” Gal. 4:4
 - There was nothing arbitrary about the timing.
 - **“without strength”** – People are powerless to accomplish any action on our own that would provide salvation.
 - **“Christ died for the ungodly.”**
 - At the time designated by the Father, Jesus death on the cross was the atoning sacrifice for sinners like us.
 - Jesus said *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* Mark 2:17
 - Paul demonstrates the remarkable nature of Jesus’ death with two statements.
 - Hardly anybody would lay down their life for morally upright (righteous) person.
 - Only a few would give their life for a person whom they have a “good” relationship.
 - **“But because of God’s love toward us, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”**
 - *Cause and Effect* – Because of God’s love, Christ died for us.
 - God’s love was on display at the cross for the world to see.
- **Would you ever consider giving your life for someone else?**
- **How is God’s love being expressed today during the coronavirus pandemic?**



Justified Equals Reconciliation (Romans 5:9-11)

- Earlier Paul stressed that righteousness through faith results in the peace of God being given to us through His Son.
 - Here Paul adds that right standing with God was accomplished by Jesus’ blood.
 - God had completed the task of declaring us righteous. Jesus completed the work.
 - We shall not experience the wrath of God in the final judgment.
 - Before we accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord by faith, we were “enemies” of God.
 - The hostile relationship was reconciled because of God’s initiative.
 - God has given believers that ability to overcome the power of sin in our daily lives.
 - *We should be bragging on God daily for what He has done for us in Christ!*
 - Paul ends this section just as he had begun **“We also joy in God”**
 - We rejoice in the hope of glory, even in our afflictions, and in our new relationship to God.
 - We can know peace in our lives, because God is in control and He loves us.
 - Peace with God comes with hope, the ability to rejoice in our sufferings, the experience of God’s love and the gift of the Holy Spirit’s presence.
- **What actions can we take to show the world that as believers, we are at peace?**



Biblical Truth:

All who accept the gospel find Peace with God

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven. and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

I can't brag about my love for God because I fail Him daily. But I can brag about His love for me because it never fails.

