

Romans

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Romans 5:1-5



Vs. 1

- Jesus said in John 3:16 that those who **believe**, those who have **faith**, will be saved, will have eternal life. Faith is a powerful thing. Recall how the writer of Hebrews put faith on the center stage in Ch. 11. By faith, ordinary people were able to accomplish extraordinary things. Here in verse 1 faith works powerfully, both inside and out.
- First, we are **justified** by faith. To be justified means to be acquitted, your wrongs erased, and then redeemed and restored, to claim the righteousness that sin took away. Again, this is central to Paul's teachings. It is by faith and faith alone that can make us right again.
- And now that we are clean and sin no longer clings to us, our Lord Jesus Christ can bring us into the presence of God, not as a defeated enemy, but as prodigal child who has come home, welcomed and restored, at peace with the Father. The word Paul uses for "peace" commonly referred to the time after a truce was declared between warring nations. Here, though, the war is over and we have peace, we can *know* peace. Recall that our God is the God who raises people from the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. Thus by surrendering to Him, He sets us free. By dying to self, our true selves are made alive. By having faith in the God we do not know, we can begin to fully know Him.

Vs. 2

- Jesus also opens the door for us to receive God's amazing grace. When we have faith and believe, it opens so many doors and possibilities, and we discover so much power. In this grace in which we stand we find ourselves justified, forgiven, made right and righteous and in the right relationship with God.
- The word Paul uses to say we now have "an introduction" is "*prosagoge*". The word was commonly used two ways: one was referring to an introduction to royalty, but the other was to refer to a ship coming into a safe harbor. Paul has both meanings in mind here. Christ

introduces us to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, but He is also piloting us out of the storm and the unforgiving sea, into a calm and safe harbor where we can rest and find peace.

- In 3:23 Paul pointed out to the Romans that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. Here because of all that faith has opened for us, we now can have *confident hope* in the glory of God. By fulfilling John 3:16 and believing in Jesus, God now makes possible what was never possible before. In that grace we live as we never could live before, we know what we could never know, we love as we could never love. And we can begin to glimpse the glory of God, even here on earth.

Vss. 3-5

- But as Paul’s mind is soaring about grace and peace, it is as if the Holy Spirit whispers to him to remember who he is writing to: people who are trying to be Christian in 1st Century Rome. How do you do that? How do you exult/celebrate knowing that the knock at the door to arrest you could come at any time? Simple. We exult in our tribulations!
- Tribulation: “*thlipsis*” meaning pressure.
- Perseverance: “*hupomone*” meaning “a spirit that can conquer anything, that actively battles against all the world throws at it”. A Korean Christian during the war there said, “We are like nails. The harder you hit us, the deeper you drive us”.
- Proven character: “*dokime*” meaning a metal that has passed through a refining fire so that all impurities have been purged and eliminated.
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us to justify us, when we are faced with trouble, by faith we are able to meet it with an undefeatable spirit so that we come through the battle stronger, purer, better, nearer to God and looking more like Christ.
- “...and proven character, hope and hope does not disappoint.” What an amazing thought to hold on to. In a world defined by disappointment, the believer may have hope of such strength because it comes straight from the heart of God, His love pouring out into us by His Holy Spirit. Jesus said to the disciples in the Upper Room (John 16:33) “...In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world”.