

Romans; Grace and Faith

5:1-5

“Peace with God”

Turn to Romans 5... Pray...

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 5:2 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.

Rom 5:3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

Rom 5:4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

Rom 5:5 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.

Before we dive in to the exposition of Romans 5, I would be remiss if I didn't briefly address this **Tuesday's election...**

- The presidential election process has been unique
- Nobody I know truly supports the character of the representative of the party
- Both are deeply flawed when it comes to presidential character
- Thanks be to God we are not commanded to place our trust in
 - Government
 - Political parties
 - Platforms
- We ARE called to love God's creation
 - To care for it well
 - To pray for our leaders
 - To be involved – as representatives of Christ and His church
- But we are NOT called to HOPE in government
 - My point is that no matter who emerges as our next president come Tuesday night, I urge you to pray for them, for our country, and then get back to the job of being the Church in your home, neighborhood, city, state, country, and world.
 - The person in the oval office does not have any effect on your job as the representation of Christ to your neighbor.
- With that, let me **pray** for our nation, and then for our time in the Word of God...

PRAY

Peace, Love, Hope, and Suffering

- If this were Sesame Street, we could sing a song, and 100% of us would guess the same answer.
 - But we'd all be wrong.
 - All of these things belong together.

This passage – back on the screen - begs us to start at the end!

- **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit...**
- Now, on the one hand, that phrase is introductory to next Sunday's message.

- On the other, it is also the MOTIVE and REASON believers can endure sufferings – which is this week’s message.
- God is Love.
- And God’s love never fails.
- Amazing Love!
- Love that we can HOPE in for eternity.
- Yes, in God’s Love,
 - he disciplines
 - he allows for pain
 - he allows for loss
 - he allows for suffering
 - Indeed, he EXPERIENCED all such things – subjecting Himself to DEATH so that you might LIVE.
- The phrase **“poured into”** is significant to grasp:
 - **ekchunō = to pour forth; - gush (pour) out, run greedily (out), shed (abroad, forth), spill.**
 - John Michael McMillan, when he wrote the song “Oh How He Loves,” had ekchuno in mind.
 - Heaven meets earth like a sloppy wet kiss...
 - And many people – even in the church – are so uncomfortable with “sloppy wet kiss,” they change it to “unforeseen kiss” or something.
 - “It’s not very Godly” they argue.
 - According to whom???
 - Scripture tells us God’s love gushes out – indeed SPILLS out!
 - When Jesus speaks of his blood being “shed” – that’s this word.
 - Have you ever considered the word “shed” other than that thing in your backyard used to house tools?
 - When we’re not reading the Bible, and we think of “bloodshed,” we often think of a horror movie or war.
 - Why? Because “bloodshed” is not a prick of the finger.
 - It’s violent, messy, and has a “wow” effect when you see it.
 - This same word is used here – but “blood” is replaced with “love”!
 - It’s messy, it’s all over you like grandma who hasn’t seen her 2-year-old grandson in months.
 - And some people say, “Grandma, sheesh... you’re ridiculous,” and grandma doesn’t even turn away from the kid, and just says, “I don’t care!”
 - **God loves you that much.**
 - ***AND... just after the Last Supper on the night he was betrayed, Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)***
 - ***Keep that thought as we go back to the top...***

5:1, “Therefore...” (whole text again on screen)

- Always need to know what the “therefore” is there for.
- Paul answers it with a summary right away (“since we have been justified by faith”)
- Paul just finished the teaching that Abraham was accepted by God and counted “righteous” by his FAITH:

- BEFORE the law
- and before the seal of the law (circumcision)
- This is why – in Rome and across the known world – both Jews AND Gentiles are coming to faith in Jesus.
- **Therefore, we have PEACE with God.**
- Today, we begin a **3-part mini-series:**
 - **Peace with God (5:1-5)**
 - **Purchased by God (5:6-8), Nov. 13**
 - **Placed in God (5:9-11), Nov. 20**
 - **And the relationship within all 3 “P-words” because of the great love of God**

PEACE = eirēnē (i-ray-nay) = to join; peace (literally or figuratively); quietness, rest, + set at one again

- It carries with it the understanding the joining of pieces that at one time were ONE unit.
 - To truly understand peace is to know that God created everything in perfect unity.
 - Sin – via Satan – broke the union
- IOW, Eirene isn’t about taking two random things and making them one, but taking something broken or severed, and putting back together.
 - “Set at one AGAIN” is literally part of the definition of the word, “peace”

Turn to Genesis 1:26

- Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (27) So God created man in his own image... male and female, He created them...
 - ... for the purpose of relationship with Him.
- Some time passes, and in chapter 3, we read about the Fall.
 - The relationship between God and man was broken
 - And right away in v15, God prophetically says he’s gonna fix it
 - The HOPE of mending what’s broken is felt immediately
 - And fulfilled in Christ Jesus on the cross, and by the power of the resurrection.
- In large part, Romans 5:1 (peace with God) begins pointing to **Romans 8:15-17: “... you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” (16) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...”**

Bottom line:

- Paul has spent the first 4 chapters of Romans with one primary goal:
 - **To show you that God has gone to great lengths to assure you that He has made PEACE with you.**
- He wants you to KNOW this, and have eternal security in it.
 - To breathe.
 - ***To look at life’s challenges, and with integrity say, “What’dya got? The God of the universe loves me, accepts me, and has already saved me. Do what you gotta do, but I know how this ends.”***

Let’s move on to **HOPE:**

Rom 5:2 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.

- Let's break this part down...
 - Access to God's grace, by our faith (as Paul laid out in chapter 4)
 - "obtained access" is literally, **"We possess admission"**
 - In which we stand =
 - a phrase denoting permanency!
 - **Stand = histemi = abide, are established, covenanted, placed**
 - No turning back, God's not changing his mind – His promise is forever – we have permanent standing.
 - And we rejoice in HOPE...
 - **Hope = elpis = to anticipate with pleasure; expectation or confidence: - faith, hope.**
 - Hope of what? (The glory of God.)
 - IOW, the coming King, the end of days, end of sin/pain/loss.
 - The New Jerusalem, the heaven Daniel and Zechariah prophesied about, the kingdom Jesus told us to look forward to!
 - We expect this!
 - We have confidence in this!
 - We anticipate it with great pleasure!

And Paul is on a roll now... saying... NOT ONLY THAT! But...

Rom 5:3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our SUFFERING...

- Yay!
- Wait... what?

Suffering = thlipsis = pressure; affliction, anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

Suffering actually has a purpose – several, in fact:

- It produces **endurance = hupomonē = cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy: - patient continuance (waiting).**
 - Most translate this "patience"
 - Truly, it is **"cheerful endurance"**
- **Root: hupomonō = to stay under, remain in; bear (trials), have fortitude, persevere: - abide, endure**
 - This is a fascinating quality God is drawing into the hearts of us all.
 - It is one for this temporary life only.
 - In heaven, we're promised no more tears, pain... no more sin and its consequences.
 - So suffering is a "this life" experience.
 - And in "suffering circumstances," we – like Christ – aren't commended for wiggling free, but of "staying under" while God does His work.
 - And this is impossible without LOVE among the saints.
 - More on this in a bit at the close of the message...

Cheerful endurance produces...

Character = dokimē = From the same as G1384; test: - experience, proof, trial.

- Do you recognize that word, "dokime"?

- Notice Strong's indication: "From the same as G1384"?
 - That's the Greek word Dokimos = acceptable, approved: - tried.
 - Does that ring a bell? – from several weeks ago, end of Chapter 1...?
 - Dokimos and adokimos
 - Approved and disapproved
 - The people rejected God – they didn't approve of God, therefore God gave them up to their disapproved minds.
 - **Dokime = a tested character – tried, and approved.**

In the PKV (Pastor Kyle Version): **Suffering produces a cheerful endurance, which produces an approved character, which produces... HOPE.**

- **There is NO WAY you and I can "stay under" some pretty crazy trials/suffering without HOPE.**
 - Without the confident expectation that God will keep His promise.

And finally...

Hope does not put us to shame...

- This doesn't mean to imply that PEOPLE will shame your hope.
- It means, literally, your hope will not end in disappointment.
- IOW, God keeps His promise!
- **Evidenced by His overflowing LOVE.**
- Jesus is coming back for His bride!
 - Your hope will not be in vain

Let me conclude with this:

- As we have put Peace, Love, Hope, and Suffering together...

I want you to **Consider deeper the phrase "cheerful endurance"**

- **1) Specifically regarding "staying under" trials.**
- Consider the model of Christ – that the world was watching **as he endured the cross.**
 - The world was watching as he was led to it.
 - **Can you imagine the story if Jesus handled that walk like most of us handle much smaller trials?**
 - Hey, don't I get a lawyer?
 - Where are all my friends?
 - God, I prayed just two nights ago for you to take this away! When I said "your will be done," I really meant STOP this whole thing!
 - What a different legacy – dare I say NO LEGACY – if Jesus cries out for it all to stop.
 - Consider that if Jesus did just that, he likely would not have been crucified.
 - God did NOT step in, and Jesus didn't call on those 10,000 angels.
 - He "stayed under trial" and let it finish its course.
- The good news: You are not purposed to sacrifice your life for the sins of the world!
 - You can be assured of that.
- **However, you are called to suffer.**
 - Why? Because of what it produces in you.
 - If you had no suffering, you'd sense no need of saving.
 - You'd feel no need for God.

- You'd see no need for surrender.
 - You'd fail to recognize Adam's Fall and how it relates to you.
 - The lack of suffering produces a hardness of heart, an easy yoke, and a sense of independence away from God.
- **2) Let other believers – brothers and sisters in Christ – know when you're suffering.**
 - I believe NC is quite healthy in many respects.
 - We love our community
 - We love the Word of God
 - We love to worship the Lord, and are in a season currently of growing in worship
 - We have been growing in the Holy Spirit over the last 4-5 years...
 - But one area that might need a little attention is the "loving one another through times of suffering" area.
 - We love well, in friendship, prayer for one another, etc.
 - But empathy, and walking alongside for the long haul with one another...
 - ... well, I think perhaps we can model that better.
 - Look around you – odds are someone right near you is hurting today, and they're not telling anyone.
 - The same odds are unfortunately high that a genuine "how are you?" (the kind where you don't take "fine" for an answer) won't be uttered to them, either.
 - While I'm gone for 10 weeks, you will need one another just as much as when I'm here.
 - Please, please, care for one another by asking, inquiring deeper into one another's lives.
 - And LET PEOPLE IN.
 - Get down to the good stuff – the suffering, the enduring, the hard stuff.
 - I dare you to inconvenience yourself by walking the extra mile for just ONE person this week.
 - Because rejoicing in suffering is only conceivable if the body of Christ genuinely loves one another.
 - Otherwise, we're just a club.
 - **Might as well start playing bingo and wearing fez hats.**
- **3) Know that Cheerful endurance is contagious**
 - **and it is much needed in the church family!**
 - Not fake.
 - It's a godly understanding of suffering.
 - A Biblical, hope-in-heaven-centered outlook on the purposes of suffering.
 - ***And it reminds others of the PEACE we possess in Christ Jesus.***
 - Be real.
 - Be healthy.
 - Be family.
 - And await with HOPE your eternal home.

(last slide) PRAY

Dismiss for a 2-minute break, and call back NC members for the Q&A regarding sabbatical