

“We Have Peace with God”
(Romans 5:1-2)

I. Introduction.

A. Review.

1. Paul has said that he is not ashamed of the Gospel.
 - a. Why? Because it is man's only hope.
 - b. It is the power of God to salvation, the only power; there is no other way.

2. What is the problem?
 - a. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).
 - b. All are without excuse for their sin.
 - (i) The Gentiles know about God, but they hide what they know and sin anyway.
 - (ii) The Jews have the Law, but they don't keep it; they have circumcision, but their hearts aren't circumcised.
 - (iii) Everyone is under the wrath of God, because there is no one who does good, not even one (Rom 3:12).

3. What is the solution?
 - a. If man is to be saved, it must come from somewhere else besides man: It must come from God.
 - b. God has provided salvation: a righteousness that justifies.
 - c. And this righteousness doesn't come through works, but through faith.
 - (i) Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.
 - (ii) Abraham believed, and he was justified, apart from works, apart from circumcision, apart from law.
 - (iii) He believed when his senses said he couldn't be the father of nations.
 - (iv) He believed the promise, the ability, and the integrity of God.
 - (v) And Abraham received the promise, the promised Seed, and the righteousness of faith through that seed.

 - d. The Lord has done everything that is necessary to save us through Christ.
 - (i) God will save us from first to last.
 - (ii) All we must do is trust in Him.
 - (iii) He has done this that that we may not boast, but He receive all the glory.
 - (iv) Remember, this is why He made us in the first place.

B. But now Paul goes on in the next few chapters to tell us the blessings that are ours because we are justified, because we have the righteousness that faith brings.

1. In our relationship to God: we are no longer at war with Him, but at peace.
2. In our relationship to Adam: we are no longer under him as our head, but Christ (Rom. 5).
3. In our relationship to sin: we are no longer the slaves of sin, but of righteousness (Rom. 6).
4. In our relationship to the Law: we are no longer married to the Law, but to Christ (Rom. 7-8).
5. And in our relationship to this world: we are no longer a part of the old creation, but the new; and with the world, we are waiting to be set free from the corruption or deterioration of our bodies that sin brings (Rom. 8).
6. Paul goes on to show us the first of these blessings this morning: We are no longer at war with God, but at peace, and now we may rejoice in the glory of God.

II. Sermon.

A. Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God (v. 1).

1. We must never forget that outside of Christ, we were at war with God.
 - a. Adam in the garden was at peace with God; he was God's friend.
 - b. But sin, as Paul will show us, brought about the enmity, the hatred, the warfare.

- (i) God's honor was offended: we disobeyed Him.
- (ii) God's justice was violated: we sinned against Him.
- (iii) God's anger was ignited: the righteous reaction to our sin.
- (iv) God's wrath was determined against us: the only just action to take.
- (v) Paul writes, "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature *children of wrath*, even as the rest" (Eph. 2:1-3).
- (vi) To be a child of wrath means to be deserving of/under that wrath.
- (viii) As we read in our meditation this morning, "God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day. If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts" (Ps. 7:11-13).
- (ix) God doesn't love all men, as some think He does.
 - (a) Yes, He shows kindness to all men. As Jesus says, "He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men" (Luke 6:35).
 - (b) But this kindness is not to be confused with love.
 - (c) God is not pleased with those outside of Christ.
 - (d) He does love His elect, but not all men.
- (x) He is an offended Judge, a righteous warrior.
 - (a) In a certain sense, He was at war even with the elect, before they came to Christ.
 - (b) God would have fought against us and we against Him our whole lives.
 - (c) His righteous anger and just wrath would have swept us away into everlasting damnation.

2. But through Christ, we now have peace.

- a. "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand" (vv. 1-2a).
- b. We have peace through Jesus.
 - (i) It wasn't our doing, but Christ's.
 - (ii) And God offered it to us as a gift.
 - (iii) In Christ He has done more than just remove the enmity.
 - (a) In Christ, God is no longer at war with us, for now we are righteous.
 - (b) We are also no longer at war with Him.
- (iv) He's also added a new relationship – God is our Father, we are His children. It is a loving relationship.
- c. God brought this about through Christ.
 - (i) It's His righteousness that justifies us.
 - (ii) Without it, we are naked and unacceptable.
 - (iii) But with it, we can stand before His presence.

B. This brings the second blessing: not only do we have peace with God, we can also "exult in hope of the glory of God" (v. 2b).

1. Here is something we can boast of.

- a. We cannot boast in our works.
- b. We cannot boast in anything the Lord does through us.
- c. But we can boast in what Christ has done, we can rejoice in it and the things we have to look forward to because of it.
- d. As Paul says in Galatians, "But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (6:14).

2. And what do we look forward to because of the cross? The glory of God.
 - a. This is not so much the glory that we give to Him, although we rejoice in that by His grace, we can give Him glory.
 - b. But it is the glory that He will give to us, on the day Christ returns.
 - c. Paul writes, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself” (Phil. 3:20-21).
 - d. This is what we have to look forward to in Christ.

III. Application.

- A. In Christ, we have much to be thankful for.
 1. We were God’s enemies: He has made us His friends.
 2. We deserved hell: He has given us heaven.
 3. Our works would have condemned us: Christ’s works have saved us.
 4. We could not stand before Him: Now we can stand humbly before Him in Jesus Christ.
- B. Are you in Christ this morning?
 1. Then prepare to come to the table to give thanks to God, to renew your covenant with Him, and to receive the strength you need to serve Him.
 2. But don’t forget that there are others in the world who don’t know Him.
 - a. We are the ones who have been charged with telling them.
 - b. Remember, they are in danger as long as they are outside of Christ, but in Christ, there is peace and safety.
- C. Do you not know Him this morning?
 1. Then believe on Him now.
 2. God is at war with you. One day He will condemn you to hell.
 3. But He offers you peace in Christ.
 4. Trust in Christ and be reconciled to God. Amen.