

April 19, 2026

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

Romans: For Today's World - Part 6. Rom 5

"Standing in Grace, Living in Hope"

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. It appears that this letter was hand delivered by a faithful servant and friend of Paul, a lady by the name of Phoebe, from a nearby port city town of Cenchrea. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. "*Romans For Today's World*" highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

Today, we turn to one of the most Grace Fueled, Hope Filled passages in all of Scripture—Romans 5:1–21. Well known Pastor of years gone by Adrian Rogers once said, "*You can't appreciate the good news until you confronted the bad news.*" Paul gives us both: the devastation of the Biblical Adam's sin (found in Genesis 3) and the deliverance of Christ's grace. Romans 5 stands as a pivotal chapter in Paul's letter, unveiling the profound implications of justification by faith. Here, Paul celebrates the peace and hope believers have through Christ, contrasting the devastation brought by Adam's sin with the

abundant grace found in Jesus. The chapter explores themes of reconciliation, endurance through suffering, and the assurance of God's love poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, Romans 5 invites us to marvel at the super abundance of grace that not only forgives but transforms, assuring us that where sin increased, grace abounded all the more. The Christian life is not only about being rescued from sin, but about being ushered into a new kingdom—where we Stand in Grace and Live in Hope. In Romans 5, Paul teaches us about the authority of the Holy Spirit, the reality of suffering, and the certainty of our hope, all rooted in of the finished work of Jesus.

Standing in Grace, Living in Hope

1. Grace Allows Us To Stand Secure In Peace Thru Faith.

Romans 5:1 "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

When Paul declares that we are "justified by faith," he is announcing the greatest news a troubled soul can hear: **we have peace with God**. This peace is not a fleeting feeling or a temporary ceasefire; it is a settled reality, purchased by the blood of Jesus. We need a reality check sometimes, we were not simply at odds with or had issues with God—we were at war with God, enemies because of our sin.

But now, through faith in Christ, the war is over. We stand secure, not because of our efforts, but because of His finished work. I love how Horatio Spafford captures this concept so poignantly in the old hymn “**It Is Well with My Soul**”...Sing it with me...

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

We can truly say, “*It is well with my soul,*” because Christ has made peace for us.

Standing in this peace means we no longer have to strive for God’s approval or fear His wrath. Adrian Rogers points out that many believers live beneath their privileges, forgetting the authority and assurance that comes with justification. But the gospel invites us to stand tall, secure in the knowledge that God is for us. The storms of life may rage, but our anchor holds. As the hymn declares,

“Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.”

Let us stand secure, rejoicing in the peace that only Jesus can give. Remember:

Grace Allows Us To Stand Secure In Peace.

2. Grace Allows Us To Stand Rejoicing in Hope Even In Our Suffering.

Romans 5:2-4... “² *By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*”³ *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;* ⁴ *perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Paul says we have “*access by faith into this grace wherein we stand.*” This is not a shaky, uncertain position; it is a firm foundation. Dr. Adrian Rogers likened it to moving from a condemned, broken house into a well-constructed palace built by Christ. We don’t just visit grace—we stand in it, rooted and unmovable. And because of this grace, we can “*rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*” The Christian life is not about barely getting by; it’s about standing strong and looking forward with joyful expectation. I love how hymnwriter Edward Mote put it in the classic hymn **The Solid Rock. Sing it with me:**

*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

Our hope is not wishful thinking—it is anchored in the unchanging character of God.

To stand in grace is to live with confidence, knowing that our future is secure. Rogers reminds us that the world, the flesh, and the devil will try to shake us, but our hope is not in ourselves—it is in Christ alone.

Sing verse two of the Solid Rock hymn with me:

*When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

No matter what comes, we can rejoice, because the glory of God is our destiny. **Why... because God's Word is clear...**

^{3b} *because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Be sure of this fact and REMEMBER:

Grace Allows Us to Stand Rejoicing in Hope That Will Never Disappoint.

3. Hope Allows Us to Live in Love & Assurance

Romans 5:5... “*And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us.*”

Hope in Christ is not a fragile or uncertain thing—it is a hope that “maketh not ashamed.” Why? Because God Himself pours His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. This is a living reality. The Holy Spirit is the ambassador of Christ, making the love of God real and tangible in our lives.

Let’s sing together Verse One of Phoebe Knapp’s old Hymn “Blessed Assurance” as we emphasize this concept:

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

This assurance is not based on our feelings, but on the Spirit’s witness within us. We live in hope because God’s love is not rationed—it is lavishly poured out.

Living in hope means we face trials and uncertainties with a confidence that cannot be shaken. Dr. Adrian Rogers reminds us that *Christian character is forged in the fires of tribulation, but through it all, the Spirit assures us that we are loved, accepted, and secure.*

And the old hymn Blessed Assurance echoes this
“*Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am
happy and blest.*”

This is the hope that does not disappoint—a hope rooted in the unbreakable love of God. Let us live in hope, knowing that the Spirit’s presence is our guarantee of all God has promised. Set this firmly in your heart and mind and REMEMBER...

Hope Allows Us to Live in Love & Assurance.

4. Hope Allows Us to Experience Peace With God Through Reconciliation

Romans 5:8-11...⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The classic hymn “*At Calvary*” is a beloved old hymn by William R. Newell that powerfully expresses the themes of God’s love, Christ’s sacrifice, and our justification by His blood.

*Years I spent in vanity and pride,
caring not my Lord was crucified,
knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary.
Mercy there was great and grace was free;
pardon there was multiplied to me;
there my burdened soul found liberty,
at Calvary.*

- **God’s love is not just declared**—it is demonstrated.
- God’s love is not a distant or abstract concept.
- God’s love is a love that acts, a love that sacrifices.

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Paul makes it clear that we were not neutral toward God; we were His enemies, separated by sin. Yet, through the cross, God took the initiative to reconcile us to Himself. As the old hymn puts it...

“Mercy there was great, and grace was free; pardon there was multiplied to me; there my burdened soul found liberty—at Calvary.”

At Calvary, the barrier of hostility was torn down, and we were brought near by the blood of Jesus.

We are not only forgiven but justified—declared righteous—and saved from wrath through Him.

This reconciliation is not just a past event; it is a present reality and a future hope. Paul says, “*Much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*” Because of Christ, we now boast in God, rejoicing in the relationship restored. The hymn continues, “Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!” Our hope in Christ allows us to experience true peace with God, not as distant strangers, but as beloved children who have received reconciliation. At Calvary, we find the freedom, joy, and peace that only come from being made right with God.

REMEMBER: Hope Allows Us to Experience Peace With God Through Reconciliation

5. Hope Allows Us to Live in Abounding Grace

Romans 5:20,21...²⁰ God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant.²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul’s words here are a triumphant shout: “*Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.*” But he doesn’t stop there—he goes on to declare that just as sin

once reigned in death, now grace reigns through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. No matter how deep the stain of sin, God’s grace goes deeper still. The hymn “*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*” written by Julia H. Johnston and tune by Daniel B. Towner declares,

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin!*

This is not cheap grace—it is grace that cost Jesus everything but is offered freely to us. When we feel overwhelmed by our failures, we remember: God’s grace is greater. Living in hope means we never despair, no matter how dark the past or how fierce the struggle. We need to be reminded that grace is not just for our salvation, but for our daily walk. Now, because of Christ, grace is not just a covering for our past, but a reigning power in our present and our future, leading us all the way to eternal life. As we live in hope, we do so with the confidence that God’s grace will always be enough. Let us celebrate and proclaim “*where sin abounds, grace abounds much more*’.

Remember:
Hope allows us to live in abounding grace, now and forever.

Closing

As we reflect on the message of Romans 5, let us remember: true peace and lasting hope are found only in Jesus Christ. We stand in grace—not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done for us at Calvary. His love reaches us at our lowest, His grace covers our deepest sin, and His resurrection gives us a living hope that will never disappoint. **Friend, if you have never received this gift,** today is the day to step out of guilt and fear and into the arms of a Savior who died and rose again for you.

- Will you trust Him?
- Will you let His grace become the foundation of your life and His hope the anchor of your soul?

Come to Jesus—stand in His grace, live in His hope, and discover the joy and assurance that only He can give.

Romans 5:1-21... ¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person,

though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—¹³To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.²⁰ The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (NIV)