

Romans 5:1-25

- Opening comments
- Opening Prayer
- Today, we are returning to the Book of Romans.
- To review, Romans was widely considered Paul's greatest letter,
- And one of the most important books of the Bible.
- It's been called the Cathedral of the Christian faith,
- And the cornerstone of the New Testament.
- It's a combination of a powerful theology,
- And an impressive style of writing.
- His letter answered many difficult questions,
- That were posed by the appearance of Jesus,
- His crucifixion, and resurrection.
- Some of the Jews questioned that that law and faith
- Were contradictory principles,
- And wanted to know if the NT denied and canceled out the Old.
- These were the issues that lied at the heart of the hostility
- That existed with the first century Jews,
- In regards to the concepts and truths of Christianity.
- In the Book of Romans, Paul attempted to answer
- These theological questions about the harmony of God's word.
- Paul was able to bring unity in looking at the Old and the New Testaments.
- The key to his reconciliation of the Old and New Testaments was
- Found in his concept of righteousness.
- Righteousness was a term that was used In first century Judaism,
- And righteousness was the conformity to the written or oral law.
- As Jesus had taught, Paul further insisted that righteousness requires
- They we do our best to be like God,
- In both our motive and in our actions.
- We saw that in Chapter 4, as displayed by Abraham.
- Paul explained how the Gospel of Christ explains
- How all humanity was trapped in sin,
- And that obeying the law of the Torah could not rescue them,
- And it was only by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- That salvation was possible for the world.

- The bottom line was that only God can transform a sinful human being.
- And it was only by the blood of Christ,
- Receiving Jesus Christ as Savior,
- Is the only way can we come to the Father.
- In Chapter 1, we saw the bold faith
- Of those who were known from far away.
- In Chapter 2, we talked about the integrity we need to have,
- So that we can walk in a circumspect and Godly manner.
- In Chapter 4, we witnessed the righteousness of Abraham,
- And it was his faith that made him righteous, and not works.
- Today, we are going to take a look at Chapter 5.
- It's a beautiful chapter, and one that brings us great joy.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 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. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance (patience), ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 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.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those

whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- There are many great memory verses in this Book. (Recall)
- One of the most wonderful of them, that gives us great comfort is vs. 8.
- **Rom 5:8 (KJV) – While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly.**
- This chapter reminds us of the goodness of God,
- And to the great degree of how much He loves us.
- God loved us so much that He sent His one and only son into this world,
- To die on the cross so that might be able to experience eternal life.
- We are reminded that we are not justified by our works,
- But only by God's grace, and our faith, are we counted as being righteous.
- How fortunate for us that God has ordained it that way.
- Imagine the tremendous pressure of everyday,
- Trying to rigidly live to the standards that we could never meet.
- There is no way that we could do that, even if we gave it our all,
- We would end up living life as legalistic as the Pharisees did.
- But Jesus freed us from that burden,
- Because our heavenly Father sent Jesus,

- Who came down and walked this earth just as we have.
- He was subject to the same trials and tribulations, disappointments,
- Temptations and rejection as we were,
- But He remained without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)
- And it's an unbelievable feat,
- When we think about that in our own personal perspective,
- Knowing how impossible that is, yet we believe it to be true, by faith.
- And it is our faith that saves us.
- For we believe that He was that spotless lamb,
- Devoid of sin, that died on Calvary's cross,
- Where he paid the price that we could not pay,
- Being held ransom for our sin, a
- And was lovingly willing to do so.
- Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.
- But by believing and receiving Jesus,
- We can become righteous by our faith,
- Because of His amazing grace,
- His blood has been applied to the doorposts of our hearts.
- I don't know about you, but when I read an obituary,
- Or hear that someone has passed, I always pause and wonder,
- Did this person know Christ?
- Are they with Him now?
- Or did they forsake Him, and let the door of grace close?
- Many times I speak about my old Pastor Bob,
- The man who baptized me, and who was very tough on me.
- And He was an old man in his early 90's.
- And I recently learned that he had passed away at 91 years of age.
- There was no pondering as to his future to be done.
- From the time he responded at a Billy Graham rally in the late 40's
- To the time of his death, Pastor Bob gave his life to Christ,
- And I am 100% sure He heard the words,
- Welcome, my good and faithful servant.
- And I can say the same for my Arizona friend, Ron Poling,
- Who eventually led me to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Their trials and tribulations on earth have ended,
- And they were both saved by the grace of God,

- Because they had faith, and had faith to the end,
- And did their best to live a life that was circumspect and obedient.
- That is how I want to be remembered,
- And I am sure you do as well.
- Life is so short. We don't know how long we have on this earth.
- But how wonderful is the assurance of salvation that we can have.
- If there is anyone here who hasn't made that decision.
- It's something that we don't want to delay.
- Sometimes we get lost in the business of our lives,
- But again, we never know what can befall us.
- There's no time to waste when it comes to our eternity.
- 2 Cor. 2:6 tells us that today is the day of salvation.
- Why put it off?
- Being justified by faith, we have peace with our Father, through Jesus.
- Do you remember when you were saved?
- When that burden of sin was rolled away?
- We can continue into the future, walking alongside Him,
- Being guided and directed in our daily life, if we allow Him to do so.
- Many times in our lives, we face turmoil, and we go a little astray,
- But Jesus is always there for us,
- And all we need to do, as it says in Hebrews 4:16 - "Let us approach the throne with confidence, so we can receive mercy and seek grace in our time of need."
- Jesus is always willing to forgive us, as long as we are truly doing our best.
- He can always restore that peace so we can stay close to him,
- And we can experience that peace in its fullness,
- If we live circumspectly a deliberate and conservative life, with obedience.
- And we can only do this with the grace of God.
- And God promises grace to the humble of heart.

³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance (patience), ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 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.

- One of the ways that we grow in our worldly life is through life experiences,

- And many of those are painful.
- It's in the darkest storms of our lives where we learn lessons,
- That make us grow in our walk, and we can apply to our future.
- And these lessons, with the grace and help of God,
- Can only help us mature in our walk with Him.
- For again, God's word does not promise that anyone of us
- Will be spared from the problems of everyday life,
- And here we are told that we should rejoice in it, as it is for our good.
- Sometimes these are brief, and at other times they are for a long time.
- And we need to endure, and wait upon God's power.
- If we look back at our own lives at the times where we suffered the most,
- Can we see where God was working in our lives?
- When we were at our lowest,
- God was working on us, helping us to grow.
- Like Pastor Bob used to say often,
- Only God can take us from the gutter most, and lift us to His uttermost.
- Only God can see us through those travails,
- Not giving us more than we can bear.
- And so we can carry on with the peace that we are God's,
- And that we will survive.
- The Holy Spirit is living within us
- He gives us joy and peace.
- Let us all experience and live with the nearness of God.
- Closing prayer.