

Peace With God

Romans 5:1



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FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

When I was younger I read a book written by Corrie Ten Boom called *The Hiding Place*. As Christians Corrie and her family hid persecuted Jews from the Nazis during that terrible time called the Holocaust. When Corrie and her family were discovered they were all imprisoned. Her father and her sister Betsy died in prison. Corrie was supposed to be executed by the Gestapo, but due to a “clerical error” was released. Corrie remarked, “God does not have problems. Only plans.” Before she left this life in 1983 Corrie wrote:

“Often I have heard people say, ‘How good God is! We prayed that it would not rain for our church picnic, and look at the lovely weather!’ Yes, God is good when He sends good weather. But God was also good when He allowed my sister, Betsie, to starve to death before my eyes in a German concentration camp. I remember one occasion when I was very discouraged there. Everything around us was dark, and there was darkness in my heart. I remember telling Betsie that I thought God had forgotten us. ‘No, Corrie,’ said Betsie, ‘He has not forgotten us. Remember His Word: “For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him.” “There is an ocean of God’s love available—there is plenty for everyone. May God grant you never to doubt that victorious love—whatever the circumstances.”

When Jesus Christ – God's Only Begotten Son – ministered on this earth He did two things throughout that ministry. Jesus preached the **“Gospel of the Kingdom and healed all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23).**

The only people who ever met Jesus and went away unchanged were those who rejected His help. The Pharisees – in love with themselves and in love with self righteousness – were the greatest persecutors of the Lord. They found fault with Jesus because He spent time reaching out to “publicans and sinners”. Jesus replied:

Matthew 9:12-13 ... They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. {13} I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

No one goes to a doctor when they are well, but when they're sick. When someone goes to a doctor they do what the doctor says if they want to get well. We go to the doctor's office and take off our clothes. We then sit on a little metal cold table in a little cold room in this state of undress until the doctor comes in. He says “stick out your tongue” and we comply. He says “cough” and we do it. We want to get better, so we do what the doctor says. The Pharisees and the rulers of Jesus' day didn't know that they were sick, so they rejected the doctor. They refused to hear Jesus. They loved themselves and thought they were right with God, but for all their good works they were at war with the Almighty. A disease called *sin* ate not only on their bodies, but also ate on their souls.

The Pharisees – like the Nazis that killed so many during

World War II – were sick with sin. They thought they were doing right, but they weren't. What they did they did apart from God. They refused to follow Jesus. They refused to believe His testimony, and refused to surrender to His leading. Jesus told the Pharisees:

John 5:39-40 Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. {40} And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

“Look in the Scriptures – and I am there. The Scriptures testify of Me. The Bible told you that I was coming, and now that I am here you will not hear Me.” Dear friends, the Bible says that there are many who, like those Pharisees, they will not come to Jesus. The Scripture says:

John 3:18-19 He that believeth on {Jesus} is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. {19} And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

The word "condemnation" in verse 19 is the Greek KRISIS, pronounced like CRISIS but beginning with a "K". **Here is the CRISIS. Light came into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light.** Many would rather hold on to their sins than bow their knee to the Lord Jesus. **You can only have peace with God THROUGH our LORD Jesus Christ.** The CRISIS is

that people today want to be cured, but don't want to take their medicine. If you want to be cured from sin and to find peace with God you can only do this **through our Lord Jesus Christ**. You must come to Him, surrendering yourselves to Him. Those who put aside their pride and came to Jesus were changed when they walked on this earth, and they will be changed now.

Lay down your lives at His feet, and He will give you true life.

1. We All Need To Be “Justified”

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

You cannot have **peace with God** before you are **justified**. Before a person surrenders their lives to Jesus Christ they follow one of two Biblical patterns. We either act like **Pharisees**, that self righteous crowd who felt that they were good enough in their own power to please God, or else we act like **Sadducees**, the liberal crowd that only accepted the portions of the Scripture that they liked. Nothing has changed from the beginning of the world unto today. We may have cars instead of carts, motorboats instead of paddleboats, electricity instead of kerosene and candles, calculators instead of fingers and toes, and television instead of common sense – but humanity has not changed one little bit. As King Solomon said:

Ecclesiastes 1:9 **The thing that hath been, it is that**

which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.

Unchanged man never changes. We may develop greater technology, but at heart we are naturally Pharisees and self righteous, or Sadducees and liberally humanistic. We easily see other people's shortcomings but never see our own. We're like the woman who said:

ILLUSTRATE "I don't know what this world is coming to. Someone broke into my house and stole all my Holiday Inn towels!"

Apart from Christ we are at war with God. He is truly righteous, but we are naturally not. He is holy, we are filled with holes. He is always good and giving, but we are always grasping. When the Devil tempted Jesus with riches and power our Lord answered:

Matthew 4:10 ... Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

This is not the way that most people answer. Most people follow in the footpaths of either Pharisee or Sadducee and reject following Christ from their religion. Yet the Scripture says:

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There can be no peace with God *apart from Jesus Christ*. We must be “**justified**”.

What does the word “**justified**” mean? This is the Greek word δικαιωω pronounced *dik-ah-yo'-o*, which means “**to declare righteous**”.

Only God can declare you righteous. The Scripture says:

Romans 8:33 ... It is God that justifieth.

God must justify or declare a person righteous. God alone is always right, always righteous. We are not always right, no matter what you might think. The Bible says that all of us are naturally sinners, naturally wrong, and naturally apart from God. God must *supersede* our natural wrongness. We can't make ourselves right by doing good religion (like the Pharisees) or by doing good acts of humanism (like the Sadducees). **All have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).** God must intervene – and He has through His Son Jesus Christ our Lord. The Scripture says that God did not *arbitrarily justify* people, but that Jesus

CONTEXT Romans 4:25 .. was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.

Jesus paid the penalty that we couldn't pay to give us a righteousness that we couldn't earn.

God is eternal. Every sin committed against God brings

an eternal punishment. Yet we are but mortals. How can we pay for our sins? We cannot. We must, as the Bible says, “**believe on Him that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead**”. We must believe what the Bible says. We must surrender our lives - our very intellect - to the truth that **Jesus was delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification.**

Grace is free, but it's not cheap.

Grace cost God the Father the life of His Only Begotten Son. Grace caused Jesus Christ our Lord to hang, naked and bleeding, before a jeering crowd as He cried out under the weight of our sin. Grace costs the believer everything as he lays his life down at the foot of the Cross. **Jesus Christ died for our sins, and was raised again for our justification. Jesus alone made full payment for the sins of “whosoever will”.**

So many people miss the glory of the Christian life because they refuse to surrender their lives to the Lord. They think that they can work their way to God, or be *good enough* to get to God. They miss the miracle of new birth because they - like all Pharisees - hold on to the Law with one hand while trying to please God with the other. We cannot please God until we submit to His resources.

Romans 8:5-8 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. {6} For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded

is life and peace. {7} Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. {8} So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

To be saved we bow our knee to God, not to any law, nor to any person. We recognize ourselves as helpless and hopeless without the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Law of God should convict you that you are a sinner, but it has no power to change you. The Pharisees were great keepers of the Law, but they refused to believe in Jesus unless He give them a sign. Jesus said:

Matthew 12:39-40 ... An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: {40} For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The only sign that Christ will give us that He is the Messiah is the sign of the empty tomb. **He died for our offenses, and rose again for our justification.** His death, burial, and resurrection were not *for* Christ but it was *for you*. The world stands and mocks the Cross of Christ, telling Him:

Mark 15:30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

But this was the one thing He could not do. If Jesus had

saved Himself and come down from that Cross then we would not be justified. We would still be at war with God, without hope and without help.

The world wears a Christless Cross as jewelry, and is willing to tolerate a Crossless Christ. Jesus did not come to this earth to be a mere Teacher, but He came to *make payment for our sins*.

Unless you admit your ungodliness, and unless you admit your helplessness, you cannot be saved. Unless you surrender all to the Lord Jesus Christ you cannot be justified. Look at your context:

CONTEXT Romans 5:6-10 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. {7} For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. {8} But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. {9} Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. {10} For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

We are of ourselves unable to save ourselves. **We were without strength.** Every Christian can testify that - before he or she surrendered to Christ - they were unable. We are born unnaturally ungodly. We are born into this world **without strength** - and Jesus made a way to give us life. Use God's resource!

ILLUSTRATE A little boy came into the house with tears streaming down his face, and his father asked "What's wrong?" He said, "There's a big rock in my sandbox! I struggled, and pushed, and shoved, but nothing I did made any difference." His father asked, "Have you tried everything?" and the child said, "Yes, daddy, I did". And his Father said, "No you haven't tried everything. You haven't asked Me to move the rock". The child now at the end of his strength said, "Father, will you move the rock?", and He did.

Dear friends, God has provided a great Resource to remove the rocks from our lives, and that Resource is in the Rock of Ages.

CONTEXT Romans 5:12 **by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

We are all natural sinners. We are all born into this world dead and unjustified. Yet what Adam did in the Garden of Eden, Jesus undid at the Garden of Gethsemane. What Adam did when he ate of the forbidden fruit Jesus undid when He allowed Himself to be put to death for us.

CONTEXT Romans 5:18-19 **Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. {19} For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.**

You must be **made righteous**, and you cannot be **made righteous - justified** - until you surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Being justified - this is something that God must do for you. It is not something you can do for you. **Being justified by faith**, not by works. You must, dear friend, surrender all that you are and all that you want to be to the Lord Jesus Christ.

You do not have to understand every aspect of salvation to be saved. I do not understand how a microwave oven works, but I use one every day. You may not understand how electricity is produced or how it works, but you use it every day of your lives. You may not know how gunpowder works, and if given the raw ingredients, you probably couldn't make gunpowder - and yet you can still fire the bullet that kills the deer. What God asks the unsaved person to understand is this.

You must be *born again* if you're going to enter God's Heaven one day.

You must be *declared righteous by God Himself* if you're going to find peace with God.

The only way you can be *born again* and *find peace with God* is **through the Lord Jesus Christ**. You must come to God **through Him, the King of Kings and Lord of**

Lords. The Bible says that:

Romans 14:9, 11 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. ... {11} For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Everyone will bow their knee to Jesus.

2. The Heritage Of The Christian Is PEACE

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

The heritage and birthright of every Christian is **peace with God**. Jesus said to His disciples:

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Our birthright is PEACE. If you have been born again by faith in Christ then **you HAVE peace with God**. You are no longer at war with God.

Before you met Christ, you stood GUILTY before God.

Now in Christ you are GUILTLESS, for God has declared you righteous.

Before you met the Lord Jesus you were a slave to sin.

Now that you are in Christ you are a son of God. Before you gave your life to Christ you owed a debt you couldn't pay. Now that you have exchanged life with Christ you are debt free.

Our focal text doesn't say "**we will have peace with God**", as if it is some future event. Before people die we ask them "have you made your peace with God". Dear friends, peace with God is something you should have *right now*. We will have **perfect peace with God** in Heaven. Even now, though, the Christian is not at war with God.

The Christian, believing on God, has **been justified by faith**. Because he has surrendered his life to God the Lord is doing a work in him.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

Born again believers are different than they were before they were born again.

ILLUSTRATE Many Churches and pastors today have modified the Gospel, teaching that a person comes to Christ unchanged. They teach that the liar comes to Christ *a liar still*, and the homosexual comes to Christ *a homosexual still*, and the adulterer comes to Christ *an adulterer still*, and the gossip and busybody comes to Christ *a gossip and busybody still*. Is that true? A fellow

that got caught by the police told the judge that he was a "Christian pickpocket". When the judge asked him "how can you be a Christian pickpocket?" he replied, "When I get the wallet out of one pocket, I put a Bible tract in the other". There is no such thing as a Christian pickpocket, no more than there are Christian murderers, Christian sexual predators, or Christian atheists. People may be hyphenated Americans in our mixed up world, but they cannot be hyphenated Christians. A Christian belongs to God and is being remade by God.

A Christian's change is seen in the way we approach life and the struggles of life. The Christian not only **glorifies God**, but the Bible says:

CONTEXT Romans 5:3-5 ... **we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; {4} And patience, experience; and experience, hope: {5} And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.**

When a trial comes a Christian's way we know that God is overseeing it. **Tribulation works patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope, and hope maketh not ashamed.** God uses even the seemingly bad stuff to mold and shape those whom He has saved by faith. If you are born again by faith in Christ you are literally a changed creature that is changing every day. **The Holy Ghost is given unto you.** God rides with you through every event of life.

ILLUSTRATE Dear Christian, you have a purpose in

life, and that is to glorify God by the life you live. The unbeliever looking at Jesus remains unchanged, but the believer coming and giving all to Jesus is changed. **When you spell the word "Christian" note that the word "CHRIST" comes first, followed by "IAN". That "IAN" stands for I Am Nothing, and IAN apart from Christ is nothing.**

The Christian's life is "**hid in Christ**" and only of value while attached to Christ.

C.H. Spurgeon, said:

"If the professed convert distinctly and deliberately declares that he knows the Lord's will but does not mean to attend to it, you are not to pamper his presumption. It is your duty to assure him that he is not saved. You don't imagine that the Gospel is magnified or that God is glorified by going to {unbelievers} and telling them that they may be saved at this moment by trusting Christ as their Savior while they are wedded to their idols and their hearts are still in love with sin. If I do so I tell them a lie, I pervert the Gospel, I insult Christ and turn the Grace of God into lasciviousness."

Those who meet Jesus never come away unchanged!
May God touch your hearts with His Word!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



