

Doctrine of Imputation

Romans 5:1-5

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FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 5:1-5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (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) And not only so, but 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.**

Focal Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have (ECHO, ἔχω= let us have {peace})

peace (EIRENE, εἰρήνη = peace. From the verb EIRO, meaning "to bind together that which has been separated) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: [2] By whom also we have access (PROSAGOGÉ, προσαγωγή, = the act of bringing to, moving to. The word is composed of AGO (to bring) and PROS (facing), thus the word is often used of one person bringing another person into the presence of a third person) by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

The Bible teaches a doctrine called **the Doctrine of Imputation**. Imputation means "to reckon or attribute lawlessness or lawfulness to someone based on that which the Federal Head had done". For instance, Adam our forefather was placed over all creation. As the Federal Head he represented all of humanity in the Garden of Eden. When he willfully sinned by partaking

of the forbidden fruit his sin is *reckoned by God* and *imputed* to all of his descendants. Adam sinned as the Federal Head – his guilt of sin transmits to all his children. The sons of Adam are – according to the Scripture – all condemned under sin.

The book **Major Bible Themes**¹ state of the doctrine:

“**Three imputations are set forth in Scripture: (1) The sin of Adam is imputed to his posterity (Romans 5:12-14), (2) The sin of man is imputed to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21), and (3) the righteousness of God is imputed to those who believe (Genesis 15:6; Psalm 32:2; Romans 3:22; 4:3, 8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philemon 17, 18)**”

Once you understand the Doctrine of Imputation you can understand why the Baptist believes in the **Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints** (crudely called “**Once Saved, Always Saved**”). Adam fell, and his sin was imputed to his posterity. Christ died, and the sin of Adam in us is imputed to Christ's death on the Cross. We die to self, believing on God's provision in Christ, and the righteousness of God is imputed to us. We did nothing to earn nor deserve that righteousness – Christ earned it for us. We who believe persevere to the end because it is Christ Who died, and Christ Who rose again.

Focal Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore being justified by faith, we have² (ECHO, εἶχω= let us have {peace})

1 By Chafer/ Walvoord, Zondervan publishers, page 175

2 Present Active Indicative of G2192, εἶχω, echō, ekh'-o, A primary verb (including an alternate form σκέω scheō skkeh'-o used in certain tenses only); to *hold* (used in very various applications, literally or figuratively, direct or

peace³ (EIRENE, = peace. From the verb EIRO, meaning "to bind together that which has been separated) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Peace with God comes through the understanding that it is Christ Who made payment for your sins *and keeps on making payment*. He is the bridge – the only bridge – between God and man. We are told:

Ephesians 2:14-16 "For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"

Though we were once the enemies of God as Law breakers, we're now at a state of peace with God if we have accepted that Grace available through the Cross.

remote; such as *possession, ability, contiguity, relation* or *condition*): - be (able, X hold, possessed with), accompany, + begin to amend, can (+ -not), X conceive, count, diseased, do, + eat, + enjoy, + fear, following, have, hold, keep, + lack, + go to law, lie, + must needs, + of necessity, + need, next, + recover, + reign, + rest, return, X sick, take for, + tremble, + uncircumcised, use.

3 G1515, εἰρήνη, eirēnē, *i-rah'-nay*, Probably from a primary verb εἶρω eirō (to *join*); *peace* (literally or figuratively); by implication *prosperity*: - one, peace, quietness, rest, + set at one again.

That word “peace” is the Greek EIRENE, which means “To bind together that which was previously separated”. The word doesn't refer to a temporary fix or a truce between warring enemies, but rather a permanent state of tranquility. Our focal text says that we have peace WITH God. The word WITH is the Greek PROS, which literally means “face to face with”.

Biblical languages scholar Kenneth Wuess notes "A justified sinner has peace facing God. He stands in the presence of God, guiltless and uncondemned and righteous in a righteousness which God accepts, the Lord Jesus Christ." You, dear ones, have peace with God because of the Blood of the Cross. We are told in another place:

Colossians 1:20-23 "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is

under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

Through Christ's acceptable sacrifice we can stand in the very presence of God, literally (PROS) face to face with Him, in peace and harmony. Christ healed all rifts, all alienation between us and our Maker. Jesus reconciled (us) In the body of his flesh through death so that we who have believed in Him unto salvation are now holy and unblameable and unproveable in God's sight.

Focal Romans 5:2 "By whom also we have⁴ access⁵ (PROSAGOGE, προσαγωγή, = the act of bringing to, moving to. The word is composed of AGO (to bring) and PROS (facing), thus the word is often used of one person bringing another person into the presence of a third person) by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

The Doctrine of Imputation teaches that – since Christ's righteousness is *imputed or credited* to our account we have from the point of salvation and keep on having and holding access to the Grace of God. This is the sense of the *Perfect Tense* of echo, ἔχω, that this Grace

4 Perfect Active Indicative of echo, G2192, ἔχω, echō, ekh'-o, A primary verb (including an alternate form σκέω scheō skheh'-o used in certain tenses only); to hold (used in very various applications, literally or figuratively, direct or remote; such as possession, ability, contiguity, relation or condition): - be (able, X hold, possessed with), accompany, + begin to amend, can (+ -not), X conceive, count, diseased, do, + eat, + enjoy, + fear, following, have, hold, keep, + lack, + go to law, lie, + must needs, + of necessity, + need, next, + recover, + reign, + rest, return, X sick, take for, + tremble, + uncircumcised, use.

5 G4318, προσαγωγή, prosagōgē, pros-ag-ogue-ay', From G4317 (compare G72); admission: - access.

or free gift of salvation *never ceases giving*. It is the Gift that truly keeps on giving. God brought peace between the believer and Himself the moment that we received the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and believed on Him. We **keep on having access to this Grace** from the moment of New Birth and into eternity.

Once you understand this concept, the trials of life are much easier to tolerate. Read further:

Focal Romans 5:3-5 "And not only so, but we glory
(KAUCHOEMAI = to glory on account of a thing)

in tribulations (THLIPSIS, θλιψις, = a pressing
together, pressure, oppression, affliction, distress)

also: knowing that tribulation worketh
(KATERGAZOMAI = accomplish, achieve, to do that
from which something results) patience;
(HUPOMONE = steadfastness, constancy, endurance)

[4] And patience, experience; (DOKIMEN = the
process of trial, proving - see 2 Cor 8.2 - or the result
of trial - see Phil 2.22, tried integrity) and experience,
hope: [5] And hope maketh not ashamed;
(AKATAISCHUNO = does not disappoint) because
the love of God is shed abroad (EKCHEO, perfect
tense = has poured out) in our hearts by the Holy
Ghost which is given unto us."

Because each believer is a *purchased possession of God*, because Jesus Christ as our Federal Head has stood in our place and paid the penalty that we should have paid, because His righteousness is *imputed* or *credited to our account* – then we know that tribulations come to

increase the bond between the son and the Father. Tribulations (**pressing together, oppression, distress, affliction**) are the hands of the Potter working on this vessel of clay.

Illustrate Do you glory in tribulations? Do you praise God when times of suffering come? Perhaps you do not because you fail to understand that **that which God has imputed to you – His righteousness – is also that which He wants to impress upon you**. That which has been imputed to you is that which God – through His sanctifying hand – wants to form in you. Salvation does not come by your works, but once you are saved it is God's desire to *work through you*. The silversmith must carefully hold that which he is firing in the flame. His steady hand feels the heat that the silver goes through. His watchful eye watches dross rise to the top as the silver is tried. When the silversmith can see his face in the molten metal he knows that it is purified. When God sees His face in you He knows that the trials of life have done their work. **Tribulation worketh patience, patience brings experience, and experience brings hope.**

If we have assurance of salvation then why do we allow tribulation to overwhelm our minds? All tribulation, regardless as to its severity, is no more than a temporary state. We should be dwelling on the fact that our eternal destiny is sure, not that our temporal destinies are uncertain.

Matthew 10:28-31 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear

him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But **the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."**

If God our Father did the most for us at the Cross, then can't we be certain that He'll do the least for us in this temporal life. It cost God everything to give us salvation, do you honestly believe that He'll forsake us in providing our meager needs while we walk this earth? Tribulation, anguish, and pain are only temporary my friends. Our concern shouldn't be over the temporal, but over how we can best serve the Eternal One while in this life.

Focal **Romans 5:3-5** "**And not only so, but we glory** (KAUCHOEMAI = to glory on account of a thing)

in tribulations⁶ (THLIPSIS, θλιψις, = a pressing together, pressure, oppression, affliction, distress) **also ...**

Paul says that we should glory or rejoice in our tribulations. **Tribulations is the Greek THLIPSIS, literally meaning that which presses together, places under pressure, or causes oppression. The Christian who focuses on tribulations rather than on the hope of eternity narrows his focus to the moment. In so**

doing he discourages himself, literally robs himself of the peace of God. As believers we should expect tribulation. So many believers in Christ try to look at the world through rose colored glasses, thinking that their quality of life will always be superior to that of the unbeliever. Christians, we are not children of this world! The children of the world seek riches and power, seek material goods above spiritual love. What did Jesus say the Christian could expect? Internally, within ourselves (if we remain focused on the love of God) we have peace. Yet externally, within the world, we are misunderstood, maligned, and often despised even by family. Jesus said:

Matthew 10:34-37 "**Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.** He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

Luke 12:51-53 "**Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.**

6 G2347, θλιψις, thlipsis, *thlip'-sis*, From G2346; *pressure* (literally or figuratively): - afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

A Christian is a stranger and a foreigner in this world, misunderstood, and if thoroughly dedicated to the Master often called a fanatic even by his family. Why is this? Prior to salvation we were all the enemies of God, by our every action bringing offense to His eternal majesty. We were at one with the world. Yet after salvation we were brought to the "other side" and are now in union with God. If we maintain that relationship then we are at variance with the world, with our families, with our friends. Many believers, far too many to be believed, try to forsake part or all of their relationship with God in order to lessen the tribulation they experience from the world. Again, though, if you do this you're just robbing yourself.

Focal Romans 5:4-5 "And patience, experience⁷: (DOKIMEN, δοκιμή, = the process of trial, proving) and experience, hope... "

Tribulation endured causes the believer to develop patience and steadfastness in the faith, and this patience in turn brings forth the fruit of experience. This is the

7 G1382, δοκιμή, dokimē, *dok-ee-may'*, From the same as G1384; *test* (abstractly or concretely); by implication *trustiness*: - experience (-riment), proof, trial.

Greek word **DOKIMEN**, literally meaning a state of mind that has stood the test. Having stood the test of tribulation the Christian becomes more stable in his behavior, more sure in his actions. A good illustration of this can probably be found on your own body. When you rub your skin in the same place (be it work related, or from improperly fitting clothing) your skin builds up a thickened area we call "callous". **The callous prevents the underlying skin from being damaged. In the same way trials rub the Christian in such a way as to toughen him to adversity. Christians who have stood through the trials while calling on the name of the Lord are believers reaching ever forward to maturity.** Christians who quickly fold, crying "uncle" at the first hint of trouble are those who will never find nor experience the deeper things of God. The reason many of our Churches are populated with Christians who have no concept of maturity is because so many have cringed in the face of even the smallest trial. Don't duck the trials, believers. They lead to growth.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."

The life hidden in Christ knows that God's righteousness – and access to God – is his. We stand in Grace knowing that no matter what may come we are God's. The **Church at Macedonia** had been through great affliction, being persecuted of the world and in poverty. Yet the Apostle said of this local Church:

2 Corinthians 8:1-4 Moreover, brethren, **we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; (2) How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. (3) For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; (4) Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.**

This assembly trusted God even in the midst of great trial. Though the poorest of all the local Churches they *gave the most*. Why? Because they understood and internalized the Doctrine of Imputation. They knew that – no matter what might come – God was overseeing their trials and God was in control!

What a beautiful text, and so illustrative of how the believer in maturity should be. Hounded on every side,

much like the doe being chased by the wolves, but never really in distress. Why? Because you know that your Father is the Almighty One, more than able to protect you. Often confused, but never losing hope, for we know that in due season the answer to all our questions will come through that Blessed Spirit of Promise. We are persecuted by Satan's children, those still in the world system, but we do not fear. We trust in the Lord to bring reprieve and an answer. All tribulations serve to further the believer's growth, all help fill out that Divine Plan of Sanctification.

Focal **Romans 5:5** "... And hope maketh not ashamed; **(AKATAISCHUNO = does not disappoint) because the love of God is shed abroad (EKCHEO, perfect tense = has poured out) in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."**

There are rich believers, poor believers, healthy believers, unhealthy believers, Jewish believers, Gentile believers, believers saved by faith in Jesus Christ from every walk of life. Each and every believer saved by faith has one thing in common: **the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us**. If you have been saved, then you *know* you have been saved. Your life underwent a great change at the point of salvation. You were indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God, and you know with all assurance that you belong to God.

The Doctrine of Imputation brings with it a very real indwelling of the Spirit of God! We are told in another place:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 "Now **he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed⁸ us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."**

Galatians 4:6-7 "And **because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."**

Our Heavenly Father sealed us by giving us the Holy Spirit. The word for sealed is **SPHRAGIZO**, **σφραγίζω**, which means "To mark for private use, to mark as one's property". When God imputed righteousness to you He **marked you for His private use**. You are His son, His adopted son, and the Spirit of his Son is in your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Do all Christians receive the Holy Spirit at new birth, or is the reception of the Spirit a "second work of grace" as some believe? The Bible clearly teaches that, once you accept Jesus Christ as Savior, you immediately receive

the Holy Spirit of promise.

Ephesians 1:12-14 "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, **Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."**

Illustrate After we trust the saving Gospel of Christ we are sealed (SPHRAGIZO) with the Holy Spirit. This sealing ministry is the earnest (ARRHABON) literally the pledge or collateral, a down payment on the promise of salvation. A good illustration of this work of God can be found in purchasing a house. When you go to purchase a house you deposit into a fund "earnest money". This money is a cash pledge saying that you will buy the house. Once you put up the earnest money the seller pulls the house from the market. BUT if you default, and go back on your promise to buy, the earnest money is forfeited to the seller as a penalty for you breaking your word. When we were saved God gave us the Holy Spirit as the "earnest money" on our salvation. God will not forfeit on His promise, this testified by the ARRHABON of the Spirit within us.

John 14:16-20" And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the

8 Aorist Middle Participle of G4972, **σφραγίζω**, sphragizō, *sfrag-id'-zo*, From G4973; to *stamp* (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication to *keep secret*, to *attest*: - (set a, set to) seal up, stop.

world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

The Holy Spirit abides with (indwells) every believer at the point of salvation. This was a promise from our Lord, and that promise wasn't conditioned on whether we asked for the Spirit or not. This indwelling is for ever. And if for ever, then how can we believe that it would be possible to lose our salvation? If it were possible to lose our salvation, then would this not make our Lord a liar? I say, NO, let all creation be a liar and yet God be true. The indwelling eternal Spirit guarantees our salvation, guarantees that we who have believed shall see God in Heaven. God will not cast His Spirit into the lake of Fire, and this He would have to do if what many teach, that salvation is finite, is true. There is no such thing as casting away your inheritance. Once you believe you are saved, and that salvation is secured by the evidence of the indwelling Spirit.

This Spirit would not indwell you if it were not for the righteousness of Christ imputed to you, credited to your account because of Jesus. Praise God for His unspeakable gift!

May God touch your hearts with these words.



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