



ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel of Reconciliation!!

Romans 5:1-11

Message #10 of 33 – S1138

Sermon given on February 2, 2025



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel of Reconciliation!!

Romans 5:1-11

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 5**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel of Reconciliation!!**
- For the last few messages Paul has been explaining that only God's grace can make us right with Him.
- That grace is manifested through faith in Christ Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- Paul opens chapter five by telling us of two blessings associated with justification.
- **Romans 5:1-2**
- The first is 'peace with God' and the second is the 'grace' of God.
- Without faith in God there is no hope of peace anywhere in the world.
- Because people are not at peace with God (through faith in Christ) they cannot be at peace with each other.
- This also applies to us and our relationships.
- Without peace with God, you will not be at peace within yourself or in any of your relationships.
- But it is also so much more than that.
- It is also an internal calm that isn't affected by the things that are going on in the world around us.
- It is that peace that Paul was talking about in (**Philippians 4:6-7**).
Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- When we come to faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit is given to us to enable us to live a holy life.

- When the Holy Spirit, He brings everything that is available to us as Christ-followers.
- That includes the fullness of the peace of God.
- Isaiah tells us that it is possible to experience perfect peace (**Isaiah 26:3**).

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

- To experience more of the peace of God we need more faith.
- There are three components of growing faith. Imagine a triangle.
- At the base of the triangle is knowledge.
- A growing faith includes a growing knowledge.
- The more you know about God, His Word, His ways, His will, and how His Spirit operates in our life and in the world the more your faith will grow.
- To experience more of the peace of God, we need to grow in our knowledge of God.
- On the left side of the triangle is obedience.
- As your knowledge grows so must your obedience.
- Moment by moment the Holy Spirit is speaking to us and drawing us toward radical holiness.
- It is a spiritual battle that we daily fight against our sinful flesh, but we can stand in the victory that Christ Jesus won on the cross (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

- On the right side of the triangle of growing faith is experience.
- If we experience the peace of God in the midst of something difficult, we will trust God more easily the next time something comes into our life that might be unsettling.
- To grow in faith, you must experience things that require faith.
- And as you experience faith in those times, your faith will grow.
- If you neglect any of the three, knowledge, obedience, or experience, your faith will not grow as quickly as it could.

- Because we are justified, made right with God through faith in Christ Jesus, we have the perfect peace of God available to us.
- Because we are justified, we are also given access to the grace of God.
- Grace is the unmerited favor of God.
- Unmerited because we did not deserve it, and we did nothing to earn it.
- Other words associated with grace are kindness, blessings, goodwill, and gifts.
- The grace of God is the good God brings into our life.
- In every way you can define good in your life, health, materially, relationally, emotionally, and spiritually, God's grace is available.
- And in the same way we experience the peace of God through faith we access the grace of God through faith. Limited faith limits grace.
- A growing faith is vital to living the life Jesus came to give you (**John 10:10b**).

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

- Paul concludes verse 2 with a call to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
- The word rejoice has the sense of jubilant boasting.
- Because we are justified, made right with God by faith, we have the hope of the glory of God.
- We should remind ourselves that wasn't the case before we put our trust in Christ (**Romans 3:23**).

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- We know, by faith, that we will see God's glory in heaven, and we will experience that glory forever.
- That is something to get excited about.
- That rejoicing then leads into something that only faith can make true in our lives.
- **Romans 5:3-4**
- Before we get into this seemingly impossible statement, we need to look at the word 'glory' in this verse.
- It is not the same Greek word as 'glory' in verse 2.
- It is the same Greek word as the word 'rejoice' in verse two.

- What Paul is saying that we should be exuberant in our boasting in our tribulations – troubles, distress, and oppressions.
 - This is a concept that only a growing faith can accept and live out.
 - This concept is echoed by (**James 1:2-4**).
- My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing**
- It is exceedingly difficult to rejoice during tribulations, but growing faith makes it possible.
 - It is not about rejoicing in the tribulation itself, but during it.
 - It is about rejoicing in the work God will do in our faith because of the tribulation.
 - In the small town of Enterprise, Alabama there is this statue (**Boll Weevil image**).
 - The insect at the top is a Boll Weevil.
 - In the late 1800s, the primary crop of farmers in the South was cotton.
 - Farmers could make a living, barely.
 - That was until the Boll Weevil showed up and devastated the cotton.
 - In desperation farmers started planting peanuts and within a couple of years were making much more money off peanuts than they could ever make with cotton.
 - By erecting a statue with a Boll Weevil, they were rejoicing in tribulation because in the end they were better off because of it.
 - This is what Paul is trying to say to us.
 - No tribulations are enjoyable, but walking through them in faith will produce good things, like perseverance/patience, character, and hope.
 - The next result of justification is God's love.
 - **Romans 5:5**
 - The love of God, the agape love of God is poured into our heart.
 - The sense of this is that it is poured into our hearts to overflow and continues to be filled to overflowing.
 - It is God, the Holy Spirit who does the filling.
 - As long as He (forever) is in us, we are filled with the love of God.
 - Just as peace and grace are experienced by faith so is God's love.

- As your faith grows, the more you experience God's love filling your heart.
- This is especially important when we are going through the tribulations referred in verse three and four.
- When life gets tough, remind yourself of God's agape love.
- No matter what happens, God will never love you more or less than He ever has.
- His love is so great that He would send His only Son, Christ Jesus to die for you so that by faith you might be able to experience His love.
- The next five verses makes God's agape love even more amazing.
- **Romans 5:6-10**
- In these verses Paul uses four words to describe us: powerless (without strength), ungodly, sinners, and enemies.
- God didn't save us because we were special or good.
- God's love toward us is totally unmotivated by anything in us.
- God's motivation to save us was born out of His love for us, even while we were His enemies.
- If you are a Christ-follower, God loves you with an eternally, unchanging, gracious love.
- That truth will be expressed very powerfully later in (**Romans 8:38-39**).

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- You were justified by God, made right with God, by faith so that you could experience that love.
- Then here he says that if we were saved by His death, how much more will we be saved by His life.
- **Romans 5:11**
- We have received (past tense) reconciliation.
- Justification through faith in Christ comes with the blessings of peace and grace.
- It resulted in the filling of our hearts with the love of God.

- And then, Paul closes this section by telling us that it also resulted in reconciliation.
 - The Bible teaches that all sinners are separated from God, in fact, they are enemies of God.
 - But as an expression of His amazing grace, God made a way for people to be right with Him.
 - By faith we have received reconciliation with God.
 - The sense of the word reconciliation is, "the state of renewed friendship after disagreement or enmity."
 - Instead of being enemies of God, we are called beloved children of God and invited into His kingdom forever.
 - Three times in this text Paul used words that challenge us to rejoice.
 - Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.
 - Glory/rejoice in tribulations and the good they bring to our lives.
 - And finally, rejoice that we have been reconciled to God by faith in Christ Jesus.
 - Christ-followers should be the most joyous people in the world.
 - Our sins have been forgiven. We have the hope of glory in heaven.
 - We have the love of God poured out in our heart.
 - We can say God is our Father and that He loves us with an infinite, eternal love.
 - Brothers and sisters, if your life is good – rejoice.
 - If your life is hard – rejoice. If it is rich – rejoice. Poor – rejoice.
 - Healthy – rejoice. Sick – rejoice. Weak – rejoice. Strong – rejoice.
 - Lonely – rejoice. Crowded with people – rejoice.
 - We will close with Paul's words to the church in Philippi (**Philippians 4:4**).
- Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**
- Always means always!
 - If you struggle with that, ask the Holy Spirit to help grow your faith by growing your knowledge, obedience, and experience.
 - **Pray! Last Song!**