

Introduction:

- We left off on the 15th in starting a new section (chapters 5-8) of Romans.
- I gave an overview of the section:
 - Vs 1 prepares us for a new topic in Paul's letters.
 - Shift in style from 'you' to 'I'. More in first person in this section.
 - Shift in terminology from (faith and believe) to (life and live).
 - Both 5:1-11 and 8:18-39, affirm in spite of tribulation and suffering, the certainty of our final salvation, the work of Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit to believers.
- Paul invites us to celebrate both the peace with God and the Hope we have in Him.

I. The Hope of Glory

A. Verse 1

1. By believing in Jesus, we have been declared innocent of falling short of the Glory of God. What does this mean?
2. It means we have first, peace with God. Peace is not just the absence of hostility. It is the well-being, prosperity, or salvation of the godly person. Nu 6:26.
3. It is not just an inner feeling but a state of existing out of a relationship with God. Paul perceives this peace with God coming out of a former hostile relationship with God.
4. Like justification, peace comes only through faith in Christ.
 - a) *"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us."* (Romans 5:1, NLT)
 - b) *"So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."* (Romans 5:11, NLT)

B. Verse 2, it is by faith that we have access to this realm of grace.

1. Grace is God's ability in me to do the things I can not do in and of myself.
2. While this state of grace includes our justification as a key element, the notion goes beyond justification to all that is conveyed to us by God in Christ. Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 301). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
3. Verse 2 ends with Paul boasting in the grace that gives us such hope! What we lost in 3:23 glory of God, is restored in Christ.

C. Verse three: Not only do sufferings not overthrow the grace, goodness, peace and hope of God. They actually encourage them. The use afflictions allow us to boast all the more of the glorious grace of God. *"We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials..."*

1. "All suffering betrays the presence of the enemy and involves attacks on our relationship to Christ. If met with doubt in God's goodness and promise, or bitterness toward others, or despair and even resignation, these sufferings can

bring spiritual defeat to the believer. But if met with the attitude of “confidence and rejoicing” that Paul encourages here, these sufferings will produce those valuable spiritual qualities that Paul lists in vv. 3b-4. Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 303). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

2. Know that grace coming in trials gives us the confidence to persevere.
 - a) *“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” (1 Peter 1:6-7, NLT)*
 - b) *“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” (James 1:2-4, NLT)*
 - (1) Endurance is a word meaning to hold up under. It has to do with spiritual fortitude...stick-to-itiveness. Heb 12:1 throw off every weight and run with endurance the race before us.
 - (2) If our attitude stays right it will result in tested character.
 - c) Sufferings, rather than threatening or weakening hope, actually increases our certainty in that hope. Ie. Hope like a muscle must experience resistance training in order to be made strong. This leads to deep confidence in Christ.
- D. Verse 5 become the anchor point of the 1-11.
 1. Hope does not disappoint us! This verse makes it very clear that ‘hope’ is a key focal point of this section (vss 1-11)
 2. Because we now know the fullness of God’s love through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) Love ‘poured out’ / ‘filled’ it is LAVISH!
 - b) 5:5 is the first time Paul speaks of the love of God in the letter to the Romans. It is a prominent topic of Paul’s.
 - c) It is no longer an external love felt from the outside but an internal love that is deeply and emotionally felt.
- E. Verse 6-8 These verses demonstrate the extent of God’s love for us.
 1. The love of God is the motivation for us to be in relationship with Him.
 - a) verse 6, the ones Jesus dies for are weak and godless. His love came while we were utterly helpless.
 2. The love of God is the motivation for us to be in relationship with Him because of His love.

- a) vs. 7 the top of human love is to die for someone good...spouse, child, friend, etc.
- b) vs 8 the top of God's love is compared to ours. We are willing to die for a good person He is willing to die for us while we are sinners!
- c) Again, God's love is shown in Christ's death.
- 3. That love in us motivates us to endure suffering because of the reward: To Him, He gets us. To us, we get Him and His grace!
- 4. One other thing to note: Each of the verses of 6-8 end with the word "die". This adds to the unity of verses 5-11.
- F. Verses 9-10
 - 1. Has a rhythm, made right/by blood. Certainly saved/God's condemnation. Friendship with God/death of his Son. While His enemies/Saved through life of His Son.
 - 2. If God has done the more difficult thing...reconciling unworthy sinners...how much more can He do the easier thing of saving us from His wrath.
 - a) To be reconciled in Paul's mind means two things. First the accomplished work of Christ and second the acceptance of that work by the believer.
 - b) The force of the passage is that while we were sinners/enemies that God was reconciling us!
 - 3. In verse 9 justification is through the blood and in verse 10 reconciliation is through the death of His Son.
 - 4. The language of vs 10 changes from justified "a legal' thought and reconciled, "a relational" thought.
- G. Verse 11 becomes the capstone of this section and the spring board to the next.
 - 1. To rejoice over what God has done for us and has given to us in Christ Jesus is to lead us to hope and peace!
 - 2. Rejoice, friends of God!

II. The Reign of Grace and Life 12-21

- A. This section is as powerful theologically as 3:21-26.
 - 1. With a broad brush and with broad strokes Paul lays out in this section the history of redemption. He does not mention Jew or Gentile...just people.
 - 2. "All people, Paul teaches, stand in relationship to one of two men, whose actions determine the eternal destiny of all who belong to them." Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 315). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. You either belong to Adam and are sentenced to death or you belong to Christ and are assured of eternal life.
 - 3. In this passage we see the power of Christ's obedience totally overcoming the power of Adam's disobedience! We do not want to give focus to the sin but to the victory we have in Christ. Many who study and who preach from this passage focus on the sin and undermine the more powerful thought of Christ's victory!

- B. Verse 12-17. Paul is not concerned with 'original sin' in this passage but with 'original death'. Paul makes it very clear that no one escapes the reign of sin.
1. What Paul gives us in verse 12 is the explanation of universal sinfulness of all people.
 2. Adam is a symbol of Christ. In what way? The impact of the power of his one choice verses the impact of the power of Christ's one choice.
 3. Verse 15
 - a) Christ's work of manifesting grace is far greater than Adams of manifesting sin. Not only is manifested grace wonderful but the very gift of grace the Son! 15.
 - b) *"That one single misdeed should be answered by judgment, this is perfectly understandable: that the accumulated sins and guilt of all the ages should be answered by God's free gift, this is the miracle of miracles, utterly beyond human comprehension."* Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 338). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
 - c) Adams act brought condemnation and death whereas Christ's brought righteousness and life! 17 Verse 17 becomes the summary of the comparisons that Paul has made in verses 12-16.
- C. Verse 18-21 Repeats Paul's argument of this section
1. He presents once again how Christ has secured the eternal benefits of righteous provide for those who believe.
 2. vs 20 the law has the power to sinners into "their own Adam". The law reveals the desperate situation we have apart from grace.
 3. Yet in Christ we find the fulfillment of the promise in super abounding grace.
 4. verse 21 gives us the purpose of 'super abounding' grace.
 5. Paul ends this section with 'Jesus Christ our Lord'. The same way he ended 5-11 'because of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion:

- The reign of grace through Christ Jesus gives us both hope and peace!