

Peace:

A Fact and a Feeling

Rom 5:1

1

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Last week we at...

2

“The Source of Hope”

We used this passage as our opening text. I want to use it again and think about it from a somewhat different angle. Having touched on the idea last week, it gave me the idea for this lesson. Last week we concentrated on the thought that we can and should find hope in the fact that God lives. We saw that the term Shekinah, which referred to the place between the cherubim on the ark, where God would speak to Moses from, meant...

3

“Caused to Dwell”

The idea being that to be in the presence of God is the greatest hope that man could possibly have. We saw that our hope is founded in the blessedness of God’s salvation offered through Jesus Christ and the absolute certainty of His promises and combined with that we saw how that the trials and tribulations of this world reinforce the fact that there is something greater than just this life.

The power of faith is beyond wonderful. In the Epistle to the Hebrews, the writer tells us of the works it has brought about in bringing down kingdoms and obtaining promises, in quenching fire and stopping the mouths of lions, in braving perils and doing deeds of prowess. But to the faithful believer, the most wonderful of its effects is that it brings us justification and as a result of that justification,

4

“Peace”

When we know the justifying power of faith and how it clothes man in the garment of the Savior's righteousness, then the value of that faith becomes the focus of our lives. Interestingly, faith, scriptural faith, builds upon itself, like the organisms that make up a reef. There are massive reefs in the ocean that can tear the bottoms out of large ships when struck. But those reefs didn't just happen that way. They grew over time as little creatures came to live there and grew and grew until becoming that formidable reef. That's the way faith should work.

Rom 10:17

5

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Faith is started when God’s Word is read, believed, and applied in the heart and mind. As that seed of faith begins to grow so does the desire to learn more of God’s Word. As more of God’s Word is learned, then faith continues to grow. When man gets away from learning God’s Word, his faith begins to wane. That is the cycle of scriptural faith.

What faith we have will make us crave for more. So as we started looking at last week, faith brings to the believer, according to this text, two blessings. It is not the source of these things, but rather, the vehicle, the channel through which these favors come to us.

In this lesson we want to look at the two results, which Paul writes about, that obedient faith brings us into contact with...

- 6
- 1) A state of Peace with God
 - 2) The sense of being at Peace

The first brings about the second, thus the first is greater because it is the foundation upon which the second is built.

Obedient faith brings about...

- 7
- 1) A state of Peace with God

First, it brings us a state of peace-"being justified by faith"; and, secondly, it brings us a sense of peace-"we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" Rom 5:1,11; 1 Cor 15:57.

Peace:

8

1. A state of tranquility or quiet: such as
 - a. Freedom from civil disturbance
 - b. A state of security or order within a community
2. Freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions
3. Harmony in personal relations
4.
 - a. A state or period of mutual concord between governments
 - b : An agreement to end hostilities between warring factions

When given this definition, which is accurate in one sense or another scripturally, it is easy to see that because of the sin that we do, that all men do, there is no peace with God. God hates sin...

Prov 6:16-19

9

16 There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: **17** Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, **18** A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, **19** A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

Man is by nature carnally minded, that is what Paul talks about in...

Rom 7:21-23

10

21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. **22** For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, **23** but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Paul describes the same battle that we all fight daily. Our flesh sets its desire on the things of this world in opposition to the Law of God. When we give in to those desires we find ourselves at odds with God and His Word and there is no peace. We are set against the Lord, we kick against His providence, we rebel against His commands, we resist His Holy Spirit, and we reject His love as manifested in the death of Christ. That is what sin does to man. Man should live and die in this hostility and opposition to God if it were not for His almighty grace. Before man can enjoy peace within our hearts there must first be a state of peace established between us and God. We must submit ourselves to the Lord, give ourselves to His forgiveness of sin, and allow Christ to make the peace between man and God, which can only happen when sin is forgiven.

Isa 57:21

11

21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Here is the point and its one we all acknowledge in the world we live in. When law is broken, the one who has broken the law becomes a criminal. Now that sounds harsh, but look at the definition from Webster’s of what a criminal is...

Criminal:

12

1. Relating to, involving, or someone who commits a crime

So when one breaks the law that makes one a criminal, regardless of intent. In the courts of man, intent is taken into consideration when sentencing, but in the court of God, intent is not. Sin is sin, and it is sin that puts man into opposition with God. We may have the best intent in the world, but if that intent operates without law, it is still sin.

Matt 7:21-23

13

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. **22** Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' **23** And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

We may not intend to break God’s Law, but if we do, it is still sin...

Gal 5:16-17

14

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

There are only two options, either we abide by the Word of God and are made righteous by the blood of Christ or we stand guilty of sin, of violating that Law.

Acts 3:19

15

19 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

The barrier that stands between man and God, man’s sin, must be removed...

Acts 4:12

16

12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

There is a salvation available, but only through Jesus Christ.

Being guilty of sin, we must acknowledge the burden of that sin. That is only just which is due to the judge of all the earth. To refuse to do so would be to show contempt to Him. There is mercy for a sinner, but there is no mercy for the man who will not admit himself a sinner...

1 John 1:8

17

8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

That is the key, acknowledgement of our own sin. If we don't or won't we will suffer the penalty of spiritual death. But if we do...

1 John 1:9

18

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

To repeat the crux of our point; there must be a peace between man and God if a man is to have salvation in the final analysis. That peace can be achieved, but only by coming to God through Christ and His sacrifice.

2 Peter 3:13-15

19

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. **14** Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **15** and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation

In the courts of the land a guilty plea is a negative thing. It is the processor to punishment. Before God to plead one's guilt is to put yourself into a position to receive His forgiveness and the lifting of the burden of sin.

Here then is our next point...

20

2) The sense of being at Peace

Peace with God is a function of justification, justification is a function of the combination of obedient faith and the blood of Christ cleansing us. Peace of mind is a function of being at peace with God. We do not get peace of mind before we are justified, neither is peace of mind a justification. So many times you hear people talking about how they just know or feel in their hearts that they are right with God. They have a sense of peace in their minds that they are right with God. Paul discusses this very idea in...

1 Cor 10:12

21

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Just thinking we are right with God doesn't make it so. As we have seen, being right with God, justification, is a function obedient faith in combination with the blood of Christ. If someone has not been justified according to the scriptures, all the warm fuzzy feelings in the world doesn't count. But this isn't to say that there is no peace of mind that comes from being justified in the sight of God, there is.

In our time remaining, let's talk about why the faithful follower of God should have peace of mind. Look at what God has done for us.

Man was in a state of sin when, because of His love for us, God sent His Son to be the sacrifice for our sin.

Rom 5:8

22

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

A quick history, when did man ever prove himself worthy of the love of God? Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden. Man became so evil that God destroyed the world with a flood. After the Ark came to rest, man again became evil to the point that God scattered them over the face of the Earth. God's chosen people, the Israelites rode a veritable roller-coaster with their faith or lack thereof. Then along comes Christ, the Son of God, and He is rejected by His own people. What has man ever done? Yet God so loved His creation that He sent Jesus to be the sacrifice that would pay the price for man's sin.

1 Peter 1:3-5

23

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

What greater sense of peace can there be than to know that God, through Christ, has called us to an imperishable inheritance reserved for us in heaven? That is what God has promised all His faithful...

Phil 4:7

24

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Where we stand in relationship to having a sense of peace in our lives now is dependent upon the confidence we have in our eternal life. When we have that hope we spoke of last week, when we have the confidence in the promises of God, when we have the knowledge that the obedient faithful will be saved, that is the peace of God which surpasses all understanding.