

Source Of Hope

Rom 5:1-5

1

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

In chapter 4 of Romans, Paul uses Abraham to illustrate how faith translates into justifying obedience. Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of a great nation. Paul describes the faith that Abraham put into God's promise that he and Sarah would have a child, even when faced with the inevitable result of aging. He tells us that it was Abraham's faith that was...

Rom 4:22

2

22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

This is the lead in to the statements here in chapter 5 that Paul begins with...

3

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith

The real question that is in this statement is...

4

“How does faith justify?”

Justification is the process by which man is brought into a covenant relationship with God. Sin is the catalyst by which man's relationship with God is severed. So justification demands that sin be removed so that the relationship can be restored. That's justification. Abraham's faith justified him. Was it his faith that removed the barrier that sin had built?

Eph 2:12-13

5

12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Here in Eph., God through Paul, tells us that it is through the blood of Christ that we are brought back to God.

James 2:21

6

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

James addresses a similar idea here when he says Abraham was justified by works.

Which one is right? Was Abraham justified by faith as we see in Romans or by works as we see here in James? Well. The answer is a resounding YES! He was justified by faith and he was justified by works. This shouldn't be a point of contention. It isn't faith versus works, it is faith plus works. James gives that explanation in...

James 2:22 7

22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

Ultimately, it is as James says...

James 2:26 8

26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

Faith without works is nothing more than an empty and vain belief without conviction. Works without faith are nothing more than mindless actions without Law. Faith, acceptance of God, Christ, their Truth, must manifest itself in the works of God. Isn't that what is seen in...

2 Tim 3:16-17 9

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **17** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

So what we have seen is that for there to be justification, a renewal of our relationship with God, the penalty of sin must be paid. It is the blood of Christ that pays that penalty and brings man back to God. Man is justified by his obedience in faith to the Word of Truth which equips man through faith to do good works.

So we have come full circle back to the thought we began with...

10 ***“We are Justified by faith”***

Now, follow the progression of what Paul writes...

11 ***we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.***

Faith, with our works, justifies us through Jesus Christ, by whom we obtain the grace, the unmerited mercy of God. The gift of this mercy and grace gives us right to hope of the Glory of God and here now is this morning's lesson...

12 ***The Source of Hope***

There are some thoughts concerning this source of hope that I would like to pursue...

- 13
- 1) The one object of Christian Hope which should fill our future
 - 2) The two-fold nature of that hope

3) How this hope should influence the believers life

Our first point then is...

14 1) The one object of Christian Hope which should fill our future

We rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Or at least should. This idea of the

15 *“Glory of God”*

In the Old Testament it was used to describe the space between the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant where God met and spoke with Moses. This is known as the Shekinah, which is defined as...

16 *He caused to dwell*

The idea being that when man is in the presence of God he is in the Glory of God. That is the one thing that should fill our every waking thought, to be in the presence of God. What greater aspiration could anyone possibly have than to be in the presence of God, to be in the presence of His Glory? That is the hope Paul writes about in...

Col 1:5 **17**

5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 which has come to you

We can try and describe heaven with any and all sorts of human adjectives, analogies, and metaphors, but there are no words or expressions of thought that can even come close to the beauty and wonder of being in God's presence. God's Glory is such that when man is faced with it, it permeates into his very being...

Ex 34:29 **18**

29 It came about when Moses was coming down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the testimony were in Moses' hand as he was coming down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because of his speaking with Him.

After talking with God on Mount Sinai, Moses came down and his very skin shone with the Glory of God. That's the beauty of heaven. There is nothing in the beauty or pleasures of this world that could ever compare with wonder of being with God in His presence. That should be every man's hope, to be with his creator. Being with God means to bask in His perfect knowledge, His perfect purity, His perfect love, and that means no longer having to endure the weaknesses and the troubles of this world.

The very heart of Christianity is that the Divine Light of which that Shekinah was just a shadow of, has been revealed to man in Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:23 **19**

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I guess the real impact of the hope of heaven and a personal relationship with God is that as glorious as having our sins forgiven through Christ, how much more so is going to be the joyful glory of the relationship we will have with Him in heaven.

What a wonderful hope. This brings us to our next point...

20 2) The two-fold nature of that hope

As we saw in chapter 4, this train of thought, the first rung of the ladder, if you will, began with...

- 21** A) Being justified by obedient faith
- B) We have peace with God
- C) We have access into this grace
- D) We stand
- E) We rejoice in hope of the glory of God

Think of it this way; faith is generated when we truly hear God's Word. I mean actually hear it calling to our hearts and minds. When we respond to that calling and change our will to God's will, we begin the journey to peace with Him through Christ. Christ tells us in Matt. 10 that when we confess Him before men, He will confess us before God in heaven, Christ is the avenue into the grace of God and forgiveness of sin. And as we see in 2 Pet. 3, the faithful obedient response of baptism forgives us of our sins and we are raised to be with Christ to stand in a newness of life. Then, and only then, can we have the hope of the glory of God, a home in heaven with Him.

There is a caution in this. Just because a man has followed the steps to reestablish his relationship with God through faithful obedience there is no guarantee that he will never lose it. That's the point of rejoicing in the hope of God's glory, if and when a man ceases to rejoice and quits seeking to follow in the commandments of the Word, his hope for the reward of eternal life with God can be lost. Paul warns of that in...

1 Cor 10:11-12

22

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. **12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

What a sad thing that someone would have come to God through Christ only to choose to walk away again.

Now, let's look for a moment to the second source to which the Apostle traces the Christian's hope. In...

Rom 5:3

23

3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

Paul says that trouble and tribulation works patience, that is to say, not only a passive endurance, but dogged persistence, in spite of opposition. That is what trouble does it is rightly borne. Unfortunately, this is the ideal, and all too often what is seen is that trouble, tribulation causes indecision or worse, paralysis of decision.

24

Tribulation Works Patience

Tribulation tests a man, and if he bears the trouble with patient persistence, then he has passed the test and is approved. Patient perseverance, read obedience, thus works approval, read justification, or proof of the man's faith, his Christianity, and, still more, proof of the reality and power of Christ on whom his Christianity is founded.

The patience that tribulation works within us is the patience that looks to the future, to the hope of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

So there are the two sources.

25

F) The blessedness of the Salvation God offers

G) The sorrows of the trials of this life

Both lead the Christian to an understanding of the hope that God has promised. This brings us to our last point...

26

3) How this hope should influence the believers life

Gal 5:5-6

27

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

It is this hope of sharing in the glory of God that inspires the faithful follower to faith, obedience, and patience in the face of trouble. It is this hope that brings stability to the life of the obedient follower and it is this hope that helps the follower to understand...

Eph 4:4-6

28

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Look around at the world, at the world of religion. God says that there is only one body, one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father, and...

29

“One Hope”

I guess the only question left is...

30

Is It Your Hope?