

Part Eleven –

Romans 5:1-11

Romans 5:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,”*

Paul has now come to a “watershed” in leading us to the ultimate goal in chapter eight, the Spirit-led life.

From now on the brightness of that goal is progressively growing in intensity.

“Therefore” as a result of all we have covered in the previous studies I hope we can all experience the peace of mind that comes from these few and simple words.

Trusting faith, the accepting of God at His Word, can do for us far more than a lifetime of labour to produce the works of the law can ever do, it can give us peace with God.

Before Jesus came, and until we accept as true what Jesus says about God, no-one could ever have the peaceful, relaxed, intimate, loving relationship with God, that God desires we share with Him.

The close loving relationship a man and woman may share in a good marriage is a very inferior example of the loving relationship God wants to share with you and I.

Paul now gives us more experiential results of being justified by faith.

The true gospel is anchored in history and human experience; it is **not** just an abstract set of theories.

(a) **History**, because it is based and centres in the historical fact of the Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus the Messiah [Christ].

(b) **Human experience** because when we believe it and act on that belief there are results in our own human experience which could **not** have come to us in any other way.

What then happens in us when we meet the conditions of faith in what God has done through Jesus Christ, and have the righteousness of God credited to us?

Peace with God

There is no other pathway to this inner peace of mind.

A peace that is **not** touched by anything that may happen to us or around us.

“Peace” [Greek] – from primary verb meaning “to join” or “set at one again” – It describes a harmonious relationship.

The corresponding Hebrew word is “shalom” which primarily signifies wholeness, finished or made perfect, linked with a word meaning to pay a bill - our bill has been paid by Christ.

In a certain sense when we are in such harmony with our Creator we are also in harmony with His Creation.

We can see and experience the loving, yet powerful hand of our Friend, the Creator of this universe in all His Creation around us on a day by day basis.

Romans 5:2 [NIV] *“through whom we have **gained access** by faith into this grace in which **we now stand**. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”*

Access by faith into grace in which we now stand.

“Access” Greek – admission.

a) The regular word used for introducing or ushering someone into the presence of royalty, or approach of a worshipper to God.

Jesus opens the door for us to the presence of God the Father.

b) This word is also used for harbour or haven for ships.

This access to God and His Grace is like entering a safe harbour after enduring a long period of tempest.

“Grace” Greek – means basically beauty – the gracefulness of a person – charm – loving kindness – goodwill – friendly act of kindness.

Whatever our outward appearance to others when God looks at us He sees something beautiful.

He looks favourable on us.

Psalm 5:12 *“For you Lord will bless the righteous, with favour will you compass him as with a shield”*

Protected on every side by the favour of God.

“stand” Greek abide – continue – covenant – steadfastness.

Romans 5:3-4 [NIV] *“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

The Christian life is a life that involves many trials and pressures [stresses], but because we are living “in grace” these stresses do **not** have a negative effect.

Paul goes on to state that the outcome of this “working patience” – [NIV “produces perseverance”]

“Patience” Greek from root word meaning – cheerfulness – hopefulness – **a spirit which can overcome circumstances** – not a negative endurance but a positive conquering attitude.

Hebrews 2:1-3 [NIV] *“We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him.”*

We are joined in fellowship with Jesus as we run this race of life with all its knocks, pains and stresses, that we in the end may reign with Him.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 [NIV] *“Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”*

When we come to study Romans chapter six we will understand these verses more fully.

Romans 5:5 [NIV] *“And hope does **not** disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

When a person’s hope is in God it cannot turn to dust and ashes.

When a person’s hope is in God it cannot ever be disappointed.

When a person’s hope is in the love [grace] of God it can never be an illusion, for God is loving us with an everlasting love, which is backed by everlasting power.

Colossians 1:27 [NIV] *“To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**”*

Once Christ enters our lives we have this hope of being glorified by God.

Romans 8:24 [NIV] *“**For in this hope we were saved.** But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?”*

Hope is a very important part of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 [NIV] *“But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the **hope of salvation as a helmet.**”*

Hope is a helmet, it protects our mind, by a quiet, confident expectation of good.

Romans 5:3 [NIV] *“Not only so, but **we also rejoice in our sufferings,** because we know that suffering produces perseverance;”*

Why should we rejoice when we are under the stress of a trial?

James 1:2-4 [NIV] *“**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials** of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

The patience which is a fruit [the outworking of] trials perfects our Christian character.

We don’t know what a person is like until we see them go through trials; there is no way of knowing in advance.

For trials to be of greatest value, our approach to them should be *“it will be exciting to see how God gets me out of this trial”*.

This is the way to convert endurance in a trial into hope.

It may seem at times that God is a little slow in acting, but we know He will bring us out of that trial when the time is best for us **and** others who see us remaining faithful in that trial.

Hebrews 5:8-9 [NIV] *“**Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him**”*

Even Christ through patience in His trials was made perfect [mature] as a human being [already perfect as a divine being] as an example for us to follow.

This pathway of trials taken patiently leads us through a process of perfecting.

The same word is used of a metal which has passed through the fire so that everything base has been purged out of it – sterling – character] into the realm of hope.

Romans 5:5 [NIV] *“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

A hope that never disappoints us.

Why?

Because *“the love of God is poured forth through our thoughts, feelings and mind, by the Holy Spirit which is given to us”*.

After a close study of the Greek and considered with **John 7:37-39** I feel the above rendering is a clearer expression of this verse.

Meditating on such a rendering of the verse tells us that **God has given us His Spirit so that we may be physical vehicles of His Love for all mankind.**

What a privilege!

What responsibility!

Certainly something to rejoice about, seeing then that trials can be part of that experience which will allow us to be used by God in this way.

Hebrews 4:14-16 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

When we suffer in trials we suffer **with** Jesus.

He living His Life on earth again in us we are then able to give to others what we have received from God, in their time of need.

Word for word translation of **verse 16** is *“May find for opportune help”*.

I feel the sense behind this statement is what we pass on to others as a result of what God has done for us rather than limiting it to the help we receive from God when in a time of trial.

Seeing our trials as a major opportunity for us to be vehicles in God’s hands to love others gives us a greater sense of joy and self-worth.

I feel this is part of the *“good works”* that Paul refers to in **Ephesians 2:2-10** and Christ’s own words in **John 14:11-12** stated in context with the coming of the Holy Spirit so that Christ could live in us again [**John 14:15-20**]

“The Love of God”, not a part of but the total Love of God, every aspect of it.

What is the strongest power in the universe?

I believe it is God’s Love.

In the song of **Solomon 8:6** *“For love is strong as death”* – death is irresistible – no-one can avoid death,

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 [NIV] *“When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is*

sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

But when Jesus died and rose from the dead He proved that love is stronger than death.

Never underestimate the strength of God’s Love.

Romans 5:6-10 [NIV] *“You see, at just the right time, when we were still **powerless**, Christ died for the **ungodly**. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still **sinners**, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s **enemies**, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”*

Here is a description of the Love of God, expressed in Christ’s death for us. Paul uses four words to describe what we were like at the time Jesus died for us, to give us a measure of the Love of God.

- a) **“Powerless”** We could do **nothing** to help ourselves, there was no response we could make to change the situation [**Romans 3:23** and **Romans 6:23**]
- b) **“Un-Godly”** Greek – impiety – absence of the fear of God – no reverence to sacred things - God did not feature in our day to day living
- c) **“Sinners”** Greek – to miss the mark – and wander from the right path
- d) **“Enemies”** Hostile to God – adversary of God.

These different words are a gradual descent away from any loving relationship with our Creator.

It is at this lowest point of our relationship that God steps in and offers His **unconditional Love** to us.

At a time when we have **no hope** is when the Love of God is shown to us in its true depth and greatness.

Romans 5:9-11 [NIV] *“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, **having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!** Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”*

Reconciliation and imputed righteousness.

Paul then continues to show the great depth that the Love of God has.

This love goes beyond forgiveness.

Through the death of Jesus [God in the flesh] **our status with God is changed.**

Sinners as we were, we are transferred into a right relationship with our God, our debt of death being paid by the Messiah’s Blood.

But this is **not enough** not only our status must be changed but **also our state.**

Christ’s death changed our status, no longer under death penalty of the law, Christ’s resurrected life changes our state, through faith in that great act of love we are justified by God.

How?

By Christ living his life on earth once again in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit, God's Righteousness dwelling in and credited to us.

This is how our state is changed.

We are reconciled to God by this imputed righteousness and sanctified, set apart to be saved through a process that continues until our change comes.

1 Corinthians 15:48-53 [NIV] *“As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And **just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.** I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.”*

This mortal [corruptible] puts on immortality [incorruptible].

Our salvation is assured if we allow Jesus Christ to live His earthly life again in us.

He does this through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:11 [NIV] *“And this is the testimony: **God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.**”*

We have eternal life **now** when we allow the Holy Spirit to reign in us.

John 17:3 [NIV] *“Now **this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**”*

For eternal life is to have an intimate relationship with God.

We can experience eternal life now.

Galatians 3:26 [NIV] *“**You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,**”*

Put on Christ's righteousness and we are then the created children of God **now**.