



Romans 5:1-2

“The Peace Christmas Brings”

By Mike Clark

Romans 5:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

INTRODUCTION –

We come now to our last advent message. Pastor Jody kicked off the series talking about hope from Titus 2.

We learned that biblical hope or Christmas hope is the confidence that good things are still to come anchored in past events.

In week two, we discussed love from John 3 and 1 John 4. We learned that love is a requirement for all people, it’s the solution to our biggest problem, and it’s the greatest of Christmas presents you will ever receive.

Christmas Love is the realization that God loves sinners first rescuing us from our condemnation.

And last week we learned about joy. Christmas Joy is the expectancy of receiving what God intended in creation, Joy from 1 John 1.

Joy starts in the beginning, is strengthened through Advent, and is sustained through Christian fellowship.

And now we come to the last advent theme and that is peace.

The prophet Isaiah wrote -

***Isaiah 52:7** - How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation.*

Peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit -

***Galatians 5:22** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.*

Jesus promised peace to his apostles –

***John 14:27** - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*



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And did you know that peace is one of the elements of the New Covenant?

Isaiah 54:10 - *For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.*

The covenant of peace here is a foreshadowing of the new covenant.

Peace is something that we don't see much of these days...in our own country and in the world.

COVID certainly hasn't brought much peace. It has done the exact opposite. It has brought much conflict.

Our country's political situation hasn't brought peace. It's brought tremendous conflict.

Peace is something that most people want in life, although there are some people in the world who love conflict and want nothing but peace.

But ever since the fall, man has lacked peace. In the garden there was initially peace, but there was more than peace, there was the glory of God.

But after the fall, the cherubim drove man out of the garden with flaming swords indicating there was no longer peace.

Man lost peace with God and the glory of God and was then in enmity against God. The natural man now lacks peace with God.

And the natural man also lacks peace with his fellow man. Our entire history is made up of war after war after war. Now there certainly have been times of peace, but it never lasts.

And not only wars, but man's individual relationships to each other are often filled with conflict.

There can be conflict in the home, conflict with neighbors, conflict at work, conflict at school board meetings, conflict even in the church.

But the great news of advent is that the Lord Jesus Christ came and made a way for there to be peace between God and man and between man and man.



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Now in our passage this morning, Paul highlights two blessings – peace with God and hope of the glory of God. Let’s look at the first blessing – peace with God.

Point 1 – Peace with God is only possible through the Lord Jesus Christ

***Romans 5:1** - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now the opening phrase here marks a transition, and the word “Therefore” connects Paul’s present argument with what he has already said, especially in chapters 3 and 4.

In those chapters the apostle established that, as believers, we have been justified by faith. Because of our justification by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Think about this - Christians of all ages and places have been declared innocent of all charges justly brought against those who had sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.

Paul proclaims that Christians are not only justified but placed into an entirely new situation, both in the present (reconciliation) and in the future (sharing the glory of God).

Notice that Paul presents this declaration of justification as a past act.

While justification brings to the believer a new and permanent status, justification itself is a once-for-all act by which God acquits the sinner.

Now the first implication of our justification is that we have peace with God.

The verb translated “we have” is in the present tense, indicating something that is already possessed.

Many of a believer’s blessings must wait until the resurrection and glorification, but peace with God is established the moment a person places his or her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Greek word for peace, Eirene, has a more negative signification and refers to peace as the end or absence of hostilities.



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The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom and has a more positive tone. It's the well-being, prosperity, or salvation of the godly person.

The same word is used in –

Numbers 6:24-26 - The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The word peace in the OT prophets was used to characterize the salvation that God would bring to his people in the last days.

Ezekiel 34:25 talks about the Lord making a covenant of peace with Israel.

The peace that Paul is speaking about here is not subjective peace but objective peace. It's not a feeling but a fact.

Apart from salvation through Jesus Christ, every human being is at enmity with God, spiritually at war with Him, regardless of what their feelings about God may be.

In the same way, the person who is justified by faith in Christ is at peace with God, regardless of how he may feel about it at any given moment.

Through his trust in Jesus Christ, a sinner's war with God is ended for all eternity.

Paul considers this peace with God or reconciliation as created out of a situation of hostility. It was while we were enemies of God that he reconciled us.

Most unbelievers don't think of themselves as enemies of God.

Because they have no conscious feelings of hatred for Him and don't actively oppose His work or contradict His Word, they consider themselves, at worst, to be neutral about God.

Most people think they are at peace with God. But it's a false peace! The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel wrote about false prophets of their day who proclaimed a false peace.

Jeremiah 8:11 - They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.



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Ezekiel 13:9-11 - My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and who give lying divinations. They shall not be in the council of my people, nor be enrolled in the register of the house of Israel, nor shall they enter the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord GOD. ¹⁰ Precisely because they have misled my people, saying, 'Peace,' when there is no peace, and because, when the people build a wall, these prophets smear it with whitewash, ¹¹ say to those who smear it with whitewash that it shall fall!

Having a false sense of peace with God is dangerous! Being neutral with God isn't possible.

In our natural state we are condemned criminals, though most people would not consider themselves in such a critical condition.

Proverbs 20 says that most people will proclaim their own goodness. We insist that we are righteous, and we decline to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the law, and we refuse to own the justice of the sentence.

You hear that argument from many that I'm only what? – Human.

In reality, the mind of every unsaved person is at peace only with the things of the flesh, the devil, because he is their father, and the world.

And unless they repent and place faith in Christ, they will take that false peace with them to their death and awake in hell.

And so, the natural person is hostile toward God and enemies of God.

Not only are all unbelievers enemies of God, but God is also the enemy of all unbelievers, to the degree that he is angry with them every day and condemns them to hell if they die in their sins.

Psalm 7:11 - God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

The King James version says – "God is angry with the wicked every day."

God is angry with sinners because they are sinful and are in conflict with God because He is holy.

There is a division, a break, a rift, a separation between the rebellious creature and the righteous Creator.



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Think about this – people kick against his providence, rebel against his commands, resist the Holy Spirit, and reject his love as manifested in the death of Christ.

And people will continue to do such things if it weren't for God's grace!

God even warned ancient Israel of their unbelief and unfaithfulness during the wilderness wanderings.

Deut. 32:21-22 - They have made me jealous with what is no god; they have provoked me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are no people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled by my anger, and it burns to the depths of Sheol, devours the earth and its increase, and sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

God is the enemy of the sinner, and that enmity can't end unless and until the sinner places his trust in Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 57:21 – There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Every person who isn't a child of God is a child of Satan and every person who isn't a citizen of God's kingdom is a citizen of Satan's.

As Paul declared at the opening of this letter, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

But on the cross, Christ took upon Himself all the fury of God's wrath that sinful mankind deserves.

And those who trust in Christ are no longer God's enemies and no longer under His wrath but are at peace with Him.

Colossians 1:19-22 - ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

The most immediate consequence of justification is reconciliation, which is the theme of Romans 5. Reconciliation with God brings peace with God.



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That peace is permanent and irrevocable, because Jesus Christ, through whom believers receive their reconciliation, always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25 - Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

When a person embraces Jesus Christ in repentant faith, the sinless Son of God who made perfect satisfaction for all our sins makes that person eternally at peace with God the Father.

In fact, Christ not only brings peace to the believer but He Himself is our peace according to Ephesians 2:14.

Now I want to turn your attention to the birth of our Lord in Luke's gospel because peace is mentioned there as well.

In Luke 1, Zechariah prophesied about the coming Messiah. And at the end of that wonderful prophecy it says this –

Luke 1:76-79 - And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Lost sinners, stumbling around in the darkness, know nothing of true peace.

But there's hope for lost sinners because the Messiah brought the light of salvation to His people, and He will guide their feet into the way of peace.

If you have believed in the Lord Jesus, then you need to understand that He brought light to your darkness and guided you to the way of peace.

Before you were a Christian, you didn't know the way. You may have heard the preaching of the Word, but you had no capacity to know the way if it weren't for Jesus sending the Spirit to open your eyes and show you the way.

When you finally did know the way, you couldn't reach it by yourself. You could only look at it from a distance and couldn't enter the way.

But when Jesus came near to you, He guided your feet into the way and put your feet upon a rock and established your way.



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And then in Luke 2, the well-known story is told about the angels appearing to the shepherds in the field and the advent message that was proclaimed.

Luke 2:13-14 – And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

Again, the peace of which the angels spoke is the peace with God that results from salvation. Through faith in the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, God and sinners are reconciled.

Spurgeon said this – "When the new-born King made His appearance, the swaddling band with which He was wrapped up was the white flag of peace. That manger was the place where the treaty was signed, whereby warfare should be stopped between man's conscience and Himself; man's conscience and his God." – Charles Spurgeon

But notice the peace of which the angels spoke is only for men with whom God is pleased. It's not for everyone.

Now that also doesn't mean that God gives salvation only to those who please Him by their good works, since salvation is not as a result of works, so that no one may boast – Ephesians 2:9.

The Greek literally means "men of his good pleasure." It has the idea of those upon whom God's will or favor rests and expresses the thought of God's free choice of those whom he wills to favor and save.

Salvation peace belongs to those to whom God is pleased to give it; it's not a reward for those who have good will, but a gracious gift to those who are the objects of God's good will.

This all points out how crucial it is to understand the nature and extent of the atoning work of Jesus as the basis for assurance.

Although the peace of which Paul is speaking in this passage is the objective peace of being reconciled to God, awareness of that objective truth gives the believer a deep and wonderful subjective peace as well.

The peace that a believer has in the knowledge that he is secure forever in Christ not only strengthens his faith but strengthens his service.



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The knowledge that we are eternally at peace with God prepares us to wage effective spiritual warfare in Christ’s behalf and in His power.

Because Christians have their feet shot with the gospel of peace according to Ephesians 6:15, they have the confidence to stand firmly for Christ without the spiritual slipping and emotional sliding that uncertainty about salvation inevitably brings, knowing God is on their side!

Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.

All that God has for us is found in or through Jesus Christ our Lord. That is a consistent theme throughout Romans 5-8.

Peace with God comes through our Lord Jesus Christ – 5:1.

Our boasting in God is through our Lord Jesus Christ – 5:11.

Grace reigns through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord – 5:21.

The gift of God bringing eternal life is in Jesus Christ our Lord – 6:23.

Thanks for deliverance are due to God through Jesus Christ our Lord – 7:25.

The love of God, from which nothing can ever separate the believer is in Christ Jesus our Lord – 8:39.

This sacred peace between the pardoned soul and God the pardoner; this marvelous atonement between the sinner and his Judge is what the angels proclaimed.

Point 2 – Christians should rejoice in the future glory that awaits them

***Romans 5:2** - Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

“Through him” refers, of course to the Lord Jesus. Because of our reconciliation to God the Father through our trust in His Son, we have obtained our introduction or access by faith into this grace.



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“Access” is used only 3 times in the NT and in each instance, it’s used of the believer’s access to God through Jesus Christ.

On the basis of our faith in Him, Jesus Christ brings believers into this grace in which we stand. “Stand” here carries the idea of permanence, of standing firm and immovable.

Although faith is necessary for salvation, it’s God’s grace, not the believer’s faith, that has the power to save and to keep saved.

We’re not saved by divine grace and then preserved by human effort.

Believers will often fall into sin, but their sin is not more powerful than God’s grace. They are the very sins for which Jesus paid the penalty.

If no sin a person commits before salvation is too great for Christ’s atoning death to cover, surely no sin he commits after salvation is too great to be covered.

Later in Romans 5 Paul says this –

Romans 5:10 - *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

If a dying Savior could bring us to God’s grace, surely a living Savior can keep us in His grace.

2 Timothy 1:12 - *I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.*

Romans 8:31-34 - *³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

For a believer to doubt his security is to bring into question both God’s integrity and His power.

It’s also to add the merit of men’s work to the gracious, unmerited work of God.



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It's to add self-trust to trust in our Lord, because if salvation can be lost by anything that we can or can't do, our ultimate trust obviously must be in ourselves rather than in God.

Our hope is the ultimate glorification of every believer in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29-30 - *²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

As the apostle has already established, salvation is anchored in the past because Christ has made peace with God for all those who trust in Him.

It's anchored in the present because, by Christ's continual intercession, every believer now stands securely in God's grace.

And salvation is also anchored in the future, because God gives every one of his children the unchangeable promise that one day they will be clothed with the glory of His own Son.

And the result is rejoicing! “Rejoice” in the Greek has the idea of jubilation and exultation.

The Christian has no reason to fear the future and every reason to rejoice in it, because he has the divinely-secured hope that his ultimate destiny is to share in the very glory of God.

Jesus said in –

John 17:22 - *The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.*

Philippians 3:20-21 - *²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

And our glorification begins in part even in this present life –

2 Corinthians 3:18 - *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*



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God's own glory is manifested through His grace, through His sharing His divine glory with those who deserve only destruction.

Romans 9:22-23 - ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory.

Conclusion –

As we conclude, I want to ask you - Have you found this peace yet? Do you have peace with God?

If not, then I plead with you to repent of your sins and trust in Jesus Christ alone and what he did on the cross for sinners.

If you don't and you die in your sins, you will never have peace. You will be forever fixed in a state of enmity with God.

I don't wish that on anyone, so I implore you to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

I tell you now, you'll never find lasting peace apart from Christ because peace can only be found in the message of Jesus.

The peace that Jesus offers is peace like a river and righteousness like the waves of the sea.

And if you are a believer but are struggling to have peace in your life then I want you to listen to me.

I know this time of year is to be joyful, but for many of us it brings stress and problems, and we lose our peace.

Listen - when you look to your own experience or your own feelings, or even your own faith, unless that faith keeps its eye on Christ, you will lose your peace.

So can I say to you church family - Look to Christ and keep your eye on Christ and you won't lose your peace.

Think about this – if you are a believer in Christ, all your sins have been forgiven! You've had the righteousness of Christ imputed to your account!



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You are the object of eternal love! When God looks at you, he sees in you His Son!

Rest in the peace God has given you.

I want to close with Isaiah who prophesied about the peace that Jesus would bring from his suffering on the cross -

Isaiah 53:5 - *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

And so -

Romans 15:13 - *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

Prayer -