

Peace with God through Jesus (5:1)

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

- “...having been justified by faith” (5:1) sums up Romans 1:18-4:28.
- The first blessing of being right with God by faith in Christ (justification) is peace with God.
- “Q2. What is the chief end [purpose] of man? A. Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.”¹ When we are lost in our sin, it is impossible for us to fulfill the purpose for which we were created. Peace is impossible. When we are reconciled to God through faith in Christ, however, we are finally able to realize our chief purpose in life (Psalm 73:26,27; 1 Corinthians 10:31). This is peace.

Standing by Grace unto Glory (5:2)

5:2...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.

Standing Before the King by His Grace Alone

- The N.T. uses this imagery of “standing” to describe judgment – a person “standing” before a judge.² In this case, we will stand before the King of kings and Lord of lords in the Judgment.
- Don’t lose sight of the fact that Romans begins by speaking of God’s “*Son, Who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh*” (1:1-3). All “*the promises of God, in [Christ] they are yes*” (2 Corinthians 1:20), including the Old Testament promises of peace through a King descended from David (Isaiah 9:6,7; Ezekiel 34:23-31; 37:24-28;

¹ From Benjamin Keach’s Baptist catechism (1689).

² Mark 13:9; Luke 21:36; Acts 25:9,20; 27:24; Romans 14:4,10; Jude 15; Revelation 6:17.

Micah 5:4,5). **We will stand before the King in judgment, and rejoice that we stand in the grace and peace that comes through faith in Him alone.**

- The N.T. frequently speaks of “standing firm” in the faith we have in Jesus Christ.³ We dare not try to stand before God based on our own goodness, works, strength, or anything else but Jesus.⁴

Growing as a Believer (5:3,4)

5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 5:4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope...

- “*Our tribulations*” (5:3) are those normal experiences of believers in this age.⁵ Jesus promised we would experience tribulation.⁶ Paul used the reality of tribulation as a means of discipleship to strengthen and encourage the Church (READ Acts 14:22). It was the normal experience of the first generation of the Church (Hebrews 10:32-34; Revelation 1:9; 2:9,10).
 - Later in his letter to the Roman Church, Paul will give the simple command that believers must be “*persevering in tribulation*” (12:12).
 - Tribulation pales in comparison to the coming glory (2 Corinthians 4:17,18), and cannot “*separate us*

³ 1 Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 6:11,13,14; Philippians 4:1; Colossians 4:12; 1 Thessalonians 3:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 1 Peter 5:12.

⁴ READ Luke 18:9-14. Notice how both men “stood” before God, and who went home justified (declared right, or acquitted, before the Judge). See also Psalm 1:5; 5:5; 24:3.

⁵ Romans 8:35; 12:12; 1 Corinthians 7:28; 2 Corinthians 1:4; 2:4; 4:17; 8:2. Believers are promised that they will suffer “tribulation” at the hands of unbelievers in this world (Ephesians 3:13; Philippians 1:17; 4:14; Colossians 1:24; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 3:3,7; 2 Thessalonians 1:4).

⁶ Matthew 24:9; John 16:33.

from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

- Tribulation is a means by which God grows us in the faith, but it is also a means by which false confessors are revealed (Matthew 13:21; Mark 4:17).⁷
- Because we see the end-goal, and understand tribulation to be a stepping-stone toward that end-goal, we rejoice in these troubles.⁸

The Presence of Forever Love (5:5)

5:5...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.

The One God of the Bible Is Trinity

- Our text for today highlights the three Persons of the one God, what the Church has historically called Trinity: “...having been justified by faith, we have peace with **God** [the Father, 1:7] **through our Lord Jesus Christ** [the Son, 1:3]...*the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (5:1,5).*
- The Bible teaches us that there is only one God, but that this one God is three distinct Persons.⁹ This belief

⁷ Paul’s teaching about endurance/patience is also taught in James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:7.

⁸ 1 Peter is a whole letter telling us how to live as believers in a world that hates Christ.

⁹ “In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, the Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided: the Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son; all infinite, without beginning, therefore but one God, Who is not to be divided in nature and being, but distinguished by several peculiar relative properties and personal

sets the Christian faith apart from every other world religion, and draws a line between biblical, historical Christianity and false christianities.¹⁰

- One implication of this confession: the Bible doesn’t teach us that God made us because He was lonely or needed us; He is eternally self-relational, and by His loving grace has brought us into that perfectly loving and eternal relationship through the salvation which is in Jesus Christ.

Our Inevitable Hope

- “*Hope*” speaks of “*what we do not see*” (8:25). We do not yet see “*the glory of God*” (5:2) as we will, but it is ours. The “*glory of God*” is our exultation, or boasting.¹¹

Have peace with your Creator in every circumstance now and into eternity by standing before Him seeking acquittal for your sins solely through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

relations; which doctrine of the Trinity is the foundation of all our communion with God, and comfortable dependence on Him...religious worship is to be given to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to Him alone” (1689 Baptist Confession, 2.3; 22.2). “The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being” (Baptist Faith & Message 2000, II).

¹⁰ “By saying that God’s essence is simple [single, indivisible, and non-composite] and that the three persons are equal to one another as to their divinity, the Church has set itself in opposition to all forms of non-Christian thought...every type of heresy is, in the last analysis, an attack upon the Trinity.” Cornelius van Til, *An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1974), 352-353. We do not worship the same God as the Muslims, Jews, or even Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses – all of these deny that God is Triune.

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 10:17; Galatians 6:14; Philippians 3:3.