

Crossroads Baptist Church  
April 15, 2007 10:00  
Romans 5:1-2  
Romans #25

## “A Gift That Keeps on Giving”

New Living Translation – “Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.”

Romans 5:1-11 is one sentence in the Greek.

God has a gift for us, but unlike the gift in “Christmas Vacation” that keeps giving the whole year, God’s gift keeps giving through all eternity.

### I. How do you receive the gift?

This phrase “having been justified by faith” is placed at the first of the sentence for emphasis.

The only way to receive this gift is by faith. From Romans 3:21 to the end of chapter four, Paul has made it clear that being right with God comes only by faith.

Romans 3:22 “...the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ....”  
Romans 4:16 “It is of faith that it might be according to grace...”  
Romans 4:24 “...It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus...”

You can’t be justified or made righteous by the keeping of the law.  
You can’t be justified or made righteous by ceremonial procedures like circumcision or baptism.  
Paul used the example of the two great Jewish heroes – their father and their greatest King - Abraham and David to reinforce that they were made right with God by faith.

It is the hand of faith that accepts the gift of God.

Ephesians 2: 8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

### II. What is the gift?

The gift of God, as spoken of in these verses, is three fold:

#### A. We have peace with God – Assures our Past – verse 1

The peace of which he speaks is not the psychological tranquility or emotional security or an absence of anxiety. That is “the peace of God” that comes after you have “peace with God.”

The “peace of God” is a relationship of peace. The Greek word carries the meaning of “binding together that which was broken.”

Our relationship with God was broken due to our sin. This created war with God. We were His enemies. “If you are not for me, you are against me.”

Psalm 5:5 “God hates all workers of iniquity.”  
Psalm 7:11 “God is angry with the wicked every day.”

But “peace with God” means the war is over. The peace treaty has been signed. It was bloody – it cost Jesus His blood and we’re reminded of that bloody cost every time we drink the cup of communion.

We are no longer an enemy of God but a child of God; we are no longer haters of God but lovers of God. We are no longer a child of Satan but a child of God.

How did this happen? He tells us in verse one: “through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

II Corinthians 5:18-19 “We are reconciled to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation that is, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself...”

The wrath of God has been removed because of the justice of God was satisfied by Jesus Christ on the cross and our faith and complete trust in Him.

Ephesians 6:15 calls the gospel the good news of peace.

And that peace is secure. No sin (which was the cause of the brokenness) can rise up that has not already been paid for at the cross. If that’s not true, then Christ will have to die again and again and again.

Indeed, what was broken has been bound together through Jesus Christ.

If you don’t have peace, its because you don’t have grace. Seventeen books of the New Testament begins with “Grace to you and peace....” Jude 1:2 uses “Mercy and peace.”

If you don't know grace, you don't peace.

## **B. We have a place with God – It grants access for the present. – verse 2**

Paul further states “that we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand...”

William Barclay says the word prosagoge translated “access” is the word used for introducing or ushering someone into the presence of royalty. The New American Standard translates it “introduction.” It can also mean “admission.”

Oh how precious this thought of access would have been to the Jews. Jews had no personal access to God, only through the High Priest and that was once a year. No access. Gentiles could get so close, Jewish women closer, the common Jewish man closer, the priests closer and the high priest the closest but only once a year. He had to make sure he was clean and put bells on his robe lest he be killed for approaching God in an unworthy manner.

If you ever tried to get access to God on your terms or in your way you could be killed on the spot, just ask Uzza or Cora.

Menoah, the father of Sampson, in Judges 13 said they were going to die because they had seen the Lord.

But today the veil is rent and we have access. Jesus came to where we were, took us by the hand and led us through the door of Heaven only for us to find another shock – it was not condemnation there but grace.

Grace is the favor of God. We have found favor with God.

Ephesians 2: 8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith...”

But what about my sin? Look at Romans 5:20 – where our sin abounded, grace abounded much more. When sin shows up, grace shows up. It is a place of grace.

If this was the place of law, we could not survive. If this was the place of law, our sins would be exposed. But this is the place of grace.

Notice our posture of this grace: we stand!! It means to stand firm, to abide, to continue to stand.

We are firmly standing in the grace of God. That's security.

We have access any time. Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Matthew 10: 32 “All who stand before others and say they believe in Me, I will say before my Father in heaven that they belong to Me.”

Once a monk and his apprentice traveled from the abbey to a nearby village. The two parted at the city gates, agreeing to meet the next morning after completing their tasks. According to the plan, they met and began the long walk back to the abbey. The monk noticed the younger man was unusually quiet. He asked him if anything was wrong, “What business is it of yours?” came the tense response.

Now the monk was sure his brother was troubled, but he said nothing. The distance between the two began to increase. The apprentice walked slowly, as if to separate himself from his teacher. When the abbey came in sight, the monk stopped at the gate and waited on the student. “Tell me, my son. What troubles your soul?”

The boy started to react again, but when he saw the warmth in his master's eyes, his heart began to melt. “I have sinned greatly,” he sobbed. “Last night I slept with a woman and abandoned my vows. I am not worthy to enter the abbey at your side.”

The teacher put his arm around the student and said, “We will enter the abbey together. And we will enter the cathedral together. And together we will confess your sin. No one but God will know which of the two of us fell.”

(Max Lucado *The Grip of Grace*, pages 91-92.)

## **C. We have a promise from God- It causes excitement for the future. – verse 2**

We have a hope that is a confidence that we shall see the glory of God. The glory of God is the very expression of God's person – His revealed presence.

Romans 8:18 “For I consider the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

We shall see him face-to-face in all of His glory.

And that causes exultant jubilation. “We rejoice.” That is a strong word to refer to rejoicing at the highest level.