

Romans (Strengthened by the Gospel) (Week 7/18) Peace with God

Small Group Discussion Questions

Connect *When is a time in your life in which you've had to trust in God's character and promises even amidst circumstances that could have caused you to doubt? Pray for an opportunity to share that story with someone.*

Warm-Up

1. As you see things advertised, what sort of benefits do most advertisers try to appeal to?
2. As a Christian, what have been the greatest blessings that you have known through Christ?

Read Romans 5:1-4

3. Since we have been justified by faith, what — does Paul — say we have? What does this mean?
4. How has *peace with God* made a difference in your life? How do you enjoy that peace day-to-day?
5. Do you think it is ever possible to take this peace for granted? What did it cost God?
6. What does it mean to stand in grace? *How was this radical compared to God's people in the Old Testament?*
7. What types of things do people most often boast about today? What does it mean to “boast in the hope of the glory of God”? When do you boast in the hope of the glory of God?
8. What does suffering produce? How have you known this to be true? *Does this mean all suffering is good?*

Read Romans 5:5-8

9. As a Christian do you ever feel shame? Why *should we not* feel shame according to Paul?
10. What does it mean to you to know that God's love has been poured into your heart?
11. If you ever doubt God's love, what is the concrete action by God to which we can and should look?
12. Why does our unworthiness particularly shine a light on the fullness of God's love for us?

Read Romans 5:9-11

13. What does Paul say that we are saved *from*? What does wrath mean?
14. Paul says that we are saved by Jesus' death and also, *what*? Why is the resurrection significant?
15. How should having access to the living Lord be reflected in our lives everyday? What are rhythms and ways in your life in which you get to delight in — and with — the one who conquered the grave?
16. What does it mean to boast in God? Practically, where are your opportunities to boast in God?
17. How is boasting in God counter-cultural? What would be a *helpful* approach to boasting in God? What makes our boasting a helpful pointed *to God*?
18. What are opportunities you have this week, through what you are facing, to boast in the Lord?

Apply *What opportunity this week, in all you are facing, to boast in the Lord?*

Pray *Gracious Father, thank you for not abandoning us while we were enemies, but making a way through Jesus' death for us, for our reconciliation to you. Help us to grow in confidence of the hope we have. Amen.*

GOING DEEPER

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Small Group Discussion Questions

On Your Front Line this Week

On ordinary days, what reminds you that you belong to Jesus?






For Families

- *Download:* some of the family resources to use at home: stbartskids.org

Listen, Watch, and Read

- *Listen (sermon):* “A New Hope” by Pete Wilkinson:
<https://stebbes.org/sermons/a-new-hope-2/#sermons>
- *Listen (sermon):* “Peace with God” by Phillip Jensen:
https://www.allsouls.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx?show_media=213789&show_file=227061
- *Listen (sermon):* “Cross: The Way to Endurance” by Tim Keller:
<https://gospelinlife.com/sermon/cross-the-way-to-endurance/>
- *Listen (sermon):* “The Key to Christian Joy” by Andrew Sach:
<https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/55190/>

Series Resources

- *Read:* “Strengthened by the Gospel” by Brian Rosner. 
- *Read:* “The Story of God Bible Commentary: Romans” by Michael Bird.
- *Read:* “Into the Heart of Romans” by N. T. Wright. 
- *Read:* “Epistle of Paul to the Romans” by F. F. Bruce. 
- *Read:* “The Message of Romans” by John Stott. 
- *Read:* “The Epistle to the Romans” by Leon Morris. 
- *Watch:* “Romans” by the Bible Project:
<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-romans/>

 Available to borrow from the St Bart’s Library (Toowoomba): stbarts.com.au/library

ROMANS (STRENGTHENED BY THE GOSPEL)

Week 07/18 "Peace with God"

by Amy Norman (07/06/2026)

하나님과 화평을 누림 | Tō wē Nhiälic | 与神和好 | தேவனிடத்தில் சமாதானம்

Bible Passage: Romans 5:1-11

*Gracious Father, as we come to your Word,
please would your Spirit help us grasp your peace, love, and reconciliation,
that has been made ours through our Lord Jesus.
In his name we pray, Amen.*

- If you know someone who *has just* become a grandparent, then you know you don't need to say much before you're shown photos, and videos, hear about what their grandkids love, and all the benefits of visiting *and then leaving*.
- It's really obvious when something amazingly good come into someone's life, because they can't stop telling you about it, about all the blessings.
- And this is a bit like what Paul is doing as we get to chapter 5. It has been a long build up to this point, as he has worked through sin, judgement, the law, God's solution in Christ, and (just last week) the ultimate test case for being justified by faith.
- *And now he finally* is boasting of all the benefits that we enjoy through being justified by faith in Christ.
- It's not like these benefits are optional extras, a selection that you can just pick the ones you like, but they are all an intrinsic part of justification.
- They help us to understand what justification *really means*, what being made right with God really entails.
- Here we see that because we are justified, we have:
Peace with God, are **Loved by God**, and are **Reconciled to God**.

PEACE WITH GOD | VERSES 1-5

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First, we have **peace with God**. *Verse 1 ...*

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. *Romans 5:1-2.*

- We have peace with God.
This is only *through* Jesus Christ.
It is clear we didn't do any to fix our relationship with God, but we can now stand in grace and have access to the Lord *only because* of what Jesus has done.
- The prophet Isaiah foretold that the result of the Lord's righteousness would be peace, and as we trust in the very Prince of Peace, we see how the benefit of peace with God spills out and shapes everything.
- This peace has already been secured.
This peace informs how we live right now.
This peace will be experienced in full in the future, giving us security and hope for today.

3

- When you hear that you have *peace with God* you might think, sure! I know *theoretically* what peace with God is all about. I know that because Jesus' died on the cross, he removed all my sin that separated me from a relationship with God.
- But so often peace with God remains on the academic shelf of things we know about the gospel, rather than things that *truly* transform our life.
- But the benefits of peace with God *should* flow into our lives right now, changing how we really live.
- Paul applies the peace with God to our lives now, working out the worst case scenario. How does peace apply to suffering? *From verse 2 ...*

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. *Romans 5:3-5*

- It might be surprising that *peace* has anything to do with suffering!
We might like to think that if we are made right with God, then God will remove any suffering, but that is not the pattern in Scripture.
- For we follow a suffering Saviour who called us to take up our cross and follow him. >

4

Peace with God is not a guarantee we won't face suffering now.

- Rather our peace with God *informs how* we face sufferings, to such an extent that we would boast in it!
- In your Bible verse 3 might read that “we also *glory* in our sufferings”. This is not a type of self-aggrandising and gloating of what *you've* endured through, but boasting and rejoicing in our sufferings for how they point us to our hope in God.
- Remembering who wrote this letter, we know from Paul's life the suffering he refers to is not minor inconveniences or differences of opinion, but he faced fierce opposition that threatened his life, and made living for God far more difficult.
- Paul is not saying all suffering is good.
- And is not talking about suffering that is the consequence of sin, but suffering as you live following Jesus. /

- Normally we *don't boast* in the suffering we're facing, but instead we might try to hide it from others, or feel shame that we *are* facing such a situation.
- Peace with God is not just to be enjoyed when our life is all together, but peace with God grounds us in *real life*, with the *real challenges and opposition* we face.

5

- There is a big difference between *persevering* when the outcome is known, and *persevering* when everything is unknown.
- For example hiking on a trail where the destination is known, is *very different* from being lost in the bush, not knowing when you'll get out. The trail gives at least some comfort that you sort of know the distance, even if you don't know all the obstacles you'll face. But being lost means everything becomes a threat to survival.
- As Christians we can persevere because we know the *ultimate* destination. And even if we come across difficult challenges we didn't foresee, we don't go alone. In Christ, you'll never get lost.

- Often when we look back, we can see that it is through the struggle - as we look to God - that we most grow as followers of his Son.
- I'm sure you've probably experienced this pattern already: suffering that produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character hope.
- When did you last see this pattern in your own life? When was a time that suffering gave you a new capacity to endure, shaped your character, and deepened your hope in God?
- If it was up to me - I would prefer to grow *without* suffering.

6

I would like to think it's not needed.

When I look at others who show such dependence and delight in God,
I can easily think that they were just born like that!

- But *actually* when you scratch the surface of the lives of those who have followed Jesus for many decades, it is clear that their Christ-likeness is not because of an absence of suffering, but suffering has deeply formed and strengthened their hope in God.
- So often when Christians face suffering, people can think they've done something wrong, or that maybe God has failed them.
- We can feel guilty and full of shame, like we're second class citizens, and wonder why some are "blessed" and we are not.
- But see what Paul says: our hope does not put us to shame. The destination is known - our hope is in the glory of God and our future with God. This is a future that is totally secure.
- And in response to all we face, God gives us his Spirit. Through the Spirit he pours out *his love* into our hearts.
- This is not just an emotional pick me up, where we wait for a warm fuzzy feeling to know we're loved and seen,

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but as the heart is understood as the place where we think and understand,
the Spirit applies the gospel to our will.

- Through the Spirit we are given new hearts. These new hearts help us to *know* God's love, and *desire* to follow Jesus in all we face today, depending on his strength and our future hope.

8

LOVED BY GOD | VERSES 6-8

하나님께 사랑을 받음 | Nhiär Nhiälic | 蒙神慈愛 | தேவனால் அன்பு கூரப்பட்டோம்

Second, being justified shows that we are **loved by God**. Verse 6 ...

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 person, though for a good person 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. Verses 6-8

- God didn't just tell us his life story, give us a card, take us to a nice restaurant, or promise to do something someday to show us his love, but he loved us in a *permanent and costly way*.
He gave us his own life.
 - As the Gospel of John puts it:
-

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son ... John 3:16

- There is a reason why John 3:16 is amongst the most famous passages in the Bible!
Jesus is the sign from God to us that *we are loved*.
Not just a little but an all-in, holding nothing back, deeply committed, and costly love.
A love that gives everything, including the very life of the Son. Verse 8 again:

9

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. John 3:16

- God *shows* us just how much we are loved through the cross: Christ died for us.
It was a public, irreversible act that left nothing on the table.
- And what is so astounding about God's love, is not just the cost but is *who* it is for.
Christ didn't die for us because we deserve it.
We are completely undeserving of his love, and yet we desperately need it.
- It's true that there are many examples of people dying for others.
Dying for their country, for their family, or for a good person. **But this is different.**
- Jesus died for the ungodly and the sinner.
Paul has gone to great lengths to show how far *everyone* is from God,
that no amount of impressive law-keeping or being a good person will ever be enough.
- He didn't just pick the nicest people, or the ones who looked promising.
He chose the people *opposite to him* - who are ungodly,
and people who reject his ways - who are sinners! That is us.
- God's love is so different from ours, for it was always directed towards those
who could never be deserving.

10

- God's love for us is our security.
- If you have ever felt that you don't measure up as a Christian, that you haven't done enough, or know enough, or that you've made mistakes you regret: remember that *Christ died for you*.
- It wasn't up to you to begin with! He didn't wait to die for the "perfect" version of you, but knowing all our sin, all our desires, all our rejection of him, Christ died for you.
- Christ's death for us is not the starting block, and then the rest of the race is up to us. It is the *constant assurance* of God's love for us. *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. /*
- God's love for us is also a challenge. If you're ever tempted to think that *other* Christians don't measure up, or don't seem to be pulling their weight or have got their theology straight enough, it is the very same assurance: *Christ died for them*.
- He calls us to love our enemies, just as he has done for us. >

11

- Jesus' death is *for anyone* who might turn and trust in him. That's why it is such good news! And that's why the cross is at the heart of God's love for us, for he came to us in our need, saved us, redeemed us, and reconciled us.

12

RECONCILED TO GOD | VERSES 9-11

하나님과 화목하게 됨 | Määte wë Nhiälic | 回归神的怀抱 | தேவனோடு ஒப்புரவானோம்

Finally, justification means we are **reconciled to God**. *Verse 9 ...*

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while 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 boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *verses 9-11*

- Because we are reconciled to God: we are **saved from wrath**.
- God's wrath is his righteous judgement directed at sin.
Paul has already explained at length how we are all under the power of sin, that we are all deserving of God's judgement.
- But it is through Jesus' death that we are saved.
By his blood, Jesus has already faced God's judgement for our sin, and so in Jesus we have confidence we will be saved from God's wrath.
- Paul highlights what God *has done*, the justifying of sinners by Jesus' blood, to give us confidence in what lies ahead and what naturally follows, that being justified we are also saved.

13

- Note that we are not just saved through Jesus' death, but also **through his life**.
- Jesus' resurrection proves that he is victorious.
It is the guarantee of our salvation.
We were reconciled with him in his death,
and we are confident that we are reconciled to him now, because he is alive!
(It would be a bit pointless to be reconciled to someone who is dead.)
- It is so significant that Jesus lives *today*,
for we are reconciled to him,
so we can and *should* enjoy a living relationship with him!
- So it's no wonder that Paul says we should boast in God!
Not in a self-righteous way - for we know Christ died for the ungodly which includes us,
we know his love is *for* the undeserving.
Our boasting is not in ourselves - but it is in God and all he has done.
- We have peace, love, and a restored relationship with the living Lord *right now*.
And so we shouldn't squander it, take it for granted or even be ashamed of it,
but delight and enjoy it!
- It is not dependent on what we have done, and it is not dependent on our circumstances,
but solely dependent on the steadfast love and faithfulness of our Lord.

14

CONCLUSION

- It amazes me when I meet Christians who even in the midst of complex, painful, and suffering that doesn't seem to have an end point, that they are *more interested* to tell me about the Lord, to boast in the Lord. To recall his kindness, his goodness, his faithfulness that they are witnessing, and that they are watching out for.
- It can really be so distinctive, as our world only expects you to boast in your own strength, and your own achievements.
- But really, I shouldn't be amazed that *the Lord* would be their focus - even more than their suffering, for it reflects how little I truly understand *the magnitude of God's grace*.
- That because of *nothing we've done*: we can have peace with our Maker, speak to the Lord anytime, are loved despite our sin, are saved from judgement we deserve, have a hope that will never fade, a restored relationship with God that will never fail, a certainty about our eternal future with our Lord, and the presence of God's Spirit with us now, *then boasting in the Lord is the only response that makes sense.* >

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- It is the only response that grasps that gravity of God's love for us in Christ.

Gracious Father, may our lives truly boast in you.

By your Spirit, help us to enjoy and delight in our life with our risen Lord!

We pray for those right now facing suffering, that they would know your strength and your love poured out by the Spirit.

Please fix our hope on you, and help our lives be testaments to your unmerited love and goodness.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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