

Parson to Person

ROMANS 5 PART 1

“Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:23–25 NKJV).

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation” (Romans 5:1–11 NKJV).

There is no question about the fact that believers in Jesus have been justified by faith alone, in Christ alone, through grace alone. The entirety of the Gospel declares this with certainty. There is no front-loading of the Gospel tolerated nor is there back-loading condoned. Both diminish grace and therefore assault the cross, the true definition of grace, and the very character of God.

For those who hold to the true Gospel of grace, persecutions, trials, difficulties, and hardships will arise. The enemy of our souls hates the true Gospel and will do anything he can to discourage the saints. For this reason, Paul reminds the believer that *“We also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us”* (vss. 3–5). Moreover, as we grow in grace and understand that God works in our circumstances to both bring glory to His name and produce growing fruit in our lives (*perseverance, character, and hope* [see vs. 4]), we will *“rejoice in hope of the glory of God”* (vs. 2).

Paul’s emphasis on the fact that it was when we were *“without strength”* (vs. 6), *“ungodly”* (vs. 6), and *“still sinners”* (vs. 8) that Christ died for us underscores the fact that we could not and did not add anything to our salvation. Moreover, this is why we can have genuine *“peace with God”* (vs. 1) and are *“saved from [the] wrath”* (vs. 9) we deserved, and can be confident in *“this grace in which we stand”* (vs. 2). Why? Because we stand in grace—*“by His life”* (vs. 10), not in ourselves, our merit, or any goodness of our own.

Therefore, we *“endure hardship as good soldiers”* (2 Timothy 2:3) and endure the *“great struggle”* (Hebrews 10:32) knowing that we can rest in the hope that is both experienced now and is still to come.

Praise the Lord for His goodness! We have a hope that will not fade away and can be assured that *“whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame”* (Romans 9:33 and 10:11).

I love you all, Pastor Paul