

[Romans 5:1 – 9]

~ The natural man cannot receive the things of God, for they are foolishness unto him. Accordingly, our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God denies access to the natural man from this report through the completion of the epistle to the Romans; because it's purely spiritual from here forward. Paul has completed presentation of his legal case concerning redemption wrought in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our redemption was bought at a tremendous price; and delivers us from the guilt of sin. The sin question has been settled by God; do you accept it? Those who trust Christ will not come up for judgment regarding their salvation, but our works will be judged to determine our rewards in Heaven. There is an eternal rest and reward of ruling and reigning with Him for those who have trusted Christ in faith *AND* — *AND* who have suffered with Him in this life.

This report brings before us the question: what about the here and right now? A liberal preacher made the following statement many years ago: “.... *I do not believe in a religion of the hereafter! I believe in a religion of the here and now.*” So, we must consider that statement and answer it. The lost man on the street corner doesn't want to hear about a religion that won't do them any good right now with the present problem they are currently having! A starving man needs cake now. The lost aren't interested in playing a harp in some hazy concept of a somewhere, friends. Interestingly, even people who seem to have it all aren't getting very much down here anymore. Anyone who is wealthy and honest will tell you this is true. So, it will be tragic to miss the best life here and miss it hereafter, also. I suggest we all pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment at this time; and take a real lesson directly from the Spirit of God in this report.

Thankfully, Paul is going to list privileges available to us as believers in this section of Scripture as we trust Christ. These are benefits that the world is very much interested in, too, by the way; but cannot attain to. The world is after all the beneficial things listed in this passage. All people would like to have all of these things, without question. Many people are spending a

fortune attempting to obtain them, too — but search for them in things that merely represent the goodness God has prepared for those who are chosen. Interestingly, the lost don't seem to be enjoying their stuff very much anymore; but God still has joy on the table for them. All they have to do is come to God *HIS* way. This report will develop all eight benefits fully and ad seriatim according to His teaching capabilities through me....

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

~ We receive peace with God in one act of faith the moment we trust Christ as our Savior. The Word of God mentions several kinds of peace. There is world peace. The United Nations has worked at world peace for a very long time. They never get anywhere near bringing peace; not in the past, and they aren't getting anywhere today. People still seem to believe that if we protest hard enough the result will be world peace by human manipulation; it's preposterous, my beloved. No social psychological gyrations are going to produce peace. As long as there is sin in the hearts of men, there will never be peace in this world! Not until the Prince of Peace returns will there ever be peace. Either way, that is *NOT* the type of peace that Paul is talking about here.

There is another kind of peace, and that peace is that which is known as tranquility of the soul. This is the peace Jesus meant when He said, "*My peace I leave with you.*" That's John chapter fourteen at twenty-seven. Now, read carefully: that peace only comes to certain believers who have genuinely trusted Christ according to His direct will. I seriously doubt very many people have experienced it. It only comes to those who truly rest upon Him and have committed their lives, resources and thinking in completion to doing His will. I wish I could tell you I experience this peace all the time, but that would not be true. I seem to have up and down experiences. However, there is a time when peace overflows my soul, and it is truly wonderful! It is available to all believers; but not all believers can lay hold of it.

When I'm subjected to pressure and tension His peace somehow seems to instantly melt away; and then it may elude me for *very* long periods of time.

During those times, I seem to have no spiritual experiences. Okay, this may or may not be true for you; but that is *NOT* the peace that Paul is talking about, either!

A third kind of peace mentioned in the fourth chapter of Philippians is the peace that passeth all understanding. Well, friends, since it passes all understanding, what could I possibly say about that? I don't know what it is. What I do know is Paul isn't talking about that type of peace, either.

The peace Paul is speaking of in this passage is the peace that comes to our soul when we have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and we have assurance God no longer holds any sins against us. This peace is only available when we agree with God that we are sinners who, in times past, were against Him; and Whom previously had to be against us but has reconciled us with Him in Christ. We have a sure salvation, permanent and eternal. This peace only comes about as a result of forgiven sins! If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. There is no other way to make things right between you and the Lord. And only when everything is right between you and God can you understand peace through the blood Jesus shed for you on the cross.

When man sinned in the Garden of Eden, man ran from God. Man found himself alienated from God and an enemy of His. Man lost all capacity for God – all inclination to turn to God – and God turned away from the willfully rebellious sinner, Cain. When Christ died on the cross, all of that was reversed; and a Holy God can now outstretch His arms to a lost humanity and say, *“come to Me!”* This is the best peace, if you ask me. It is our rest of redemption. Selah ~

Most people are generally unclear in their thinking concerning reconciliation. We've already considered how we don't have any business in that spiritual department. Many people believe tears must be shed. But tears don't soften the heart of God, friends; you can just write that down! You can cry a river and not move the arm of God one inch. If that were the basis for reconciliation, how many tears would it take? Twelve tears? Well, then, eleven won't do; we better make sure we squeeze out that last tear. No, friends, that is not the basis of reconciliation; we don't do anything to

reconcile ourselves to God. Reconciliation is what Christ did for us on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:20 *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God*
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Only when we turn to Christ, agree we are sinners who need Him to save us, and accept salvation *ON HIS TERMS* can we experience the peace that our sins have been forgiven. No. Other. Way. There are a whole lot of people who pillow their head at night that don't know what it means to have peace in their hearts and life. There are many souls laboring with a guilt complex right now who would love to go somewhere and have it blotted out from their soul and psyche. Well, the only place guilt will ever be removed is at the cross of Christ....

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

~ "Access" means we have access to God in prayer. It's wonderful to go to God as a friend and talk about yourself to Him; involving Him with your problems, asking your questions. You can tell Him all about your friends, your loved ones, and your life; and exactly what you think about all sorts of anything. You can ask God for wisdom about secular and worldly matters. We have access to our Heavenly Father! He listens to our confession of sins, and He answers prayer, my beloved. Naturally, that doesn't mean He answers the way we want them answered; but He always answers. Whatever we take to Him in prayer, He answers according to His wisdom, plan and purpose for our lives, and not according to our will. By faith we have access to the grace wherein we can stand.

The hope in verse two refers to the hope Scripture holds out to us. Paul told Titus we are to be "... *looking for that Blessed Hope*" and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ! That's Titus chapter two verse thirteen. Looking for the Great Tribulation and the things of end-time prophecy is not hope, friends. I certainly am not looking for that stuff. That isn't any help to the world at all. We need to look for the Lord to take

His church out; now that is a glorious hope! That's what will take place at His Appearing. The child of God has hope so he has a future and has something to look forward to.

Man today has more gadgets and distractions surrounding him than are healthy to have. He has all the comforts of life in an affluent push button society. Interestingly, man has no future! The problems of this world have compounded and continue to compound with each new scientific discovery. Man cannot solve the problems in this world by education. Man is totally incapable of solving the problems of life — period. That's not much of a future if you ask me. That's all we have to look forward to in the world. It's a dark outlook we have today; you can toot your horn and wave your banner, but I'm dealing in facts. Further, the problems we're talking about are bad — but you ain't seen nothing yet, my friends! There is cancer in the body politic today, 'ya know?

Bernard Shaw pinned his hopes on atheism, and he found out unbelief does not solve the problems of the world. He said he was an atheist who had lost his faith! Well, when an atheist loses his faith, he has really lost nothing. Think that through to its final conclusion. Man has nothing to hold on to outside of Christ. This world is pathetically looking for hope in their earthly future. That explains the restlessness of nations throughout the world. It also explains most of the movements in the present moment. That dead end future explains drugs and alcohol and all sorts of weird and loud things. The child of God has a Blessed Hope; and he knows all things work together for good to those who are in Christ! He knows that nothing is going to separate him from the love of God. That is the wonderful Blessed Hope of the church. *THAT* is what we are looking for, my beloved.....

3 And not only so, but we rejoice in our suffering also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

~ It takes deep sorrows and profound trouble to bring out the very best in a believers life. I recognize these are strong medicines in this report; but that's the only way God can get fruit out of the life of a believer. Pruning

the branches makes it all fuller. That's His method. His is exactly the opposite method the world uses, too. If you're in a good situation with a pocket full of gold, it's easy to say you trust God. It's easy to have fun! It's easy to say you are patient when there is no reason to be impatient. Well, that's not the way life unfolds for the genuine child of God, according to Holy Writ. Trouble works itself out for the glory of God through our trials, suffering and tribulations....

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.

~ The love of God means God's love for us. This love is only made real by the Holy Spirit Who is given unto us! This marks the first mention in this epistle of the appearance and ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is another benefit in this list of present benefits. The ministry of the Holy Spirit will be taken up completely in the eighth chapter. After that, He will be mentioned over *twenty* times. Here, hope is given to every believer – not just some believers – all believers have this hope. This is where God actualizes and makes real the love of Himself in the hearts of believers! Every believer becomes indwelled by the Holy Spirit of God; the carnal babies called the Corinthians had to even be told that their body was the temple of the Holy Spirit. Well, either way; I'm glad we got it — that's God's love for us. We need to be conscious today of the fact that God does love us. So many people need that assurance in their lives; and only the Holy Spirit can make this real to them....

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

~ Christ died for the ungodly; it says so in verse six. Those who were, actually, His enemies; those who hated him – these are the ones Jesus meant when He said, *“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”* That means you and me, friends. God doesn’t save us by love. God is Holy, Righteous, Just and Pure! There is no back door in Heaven that you can be brought through in some spiritual ambulance. God is no crooked judge, either, as Dr. Luke told us. Something must be done by God for the guilt of sinners; there must and will be judgment. God does love us, to be sure; so He judges that way. It doesn’t matter who you are or what you’ve done, God loves you – but there will be consequence and ramifications of our works.

I think it is traumatizing to tell a child if they do some bad thing then God won’t love them. That borders on mental and psychological child abuse. God loved Hitler and Stalin and a whole long list of men who did terrible and frightful things. I don’t know about you, but I hated those men. If any one of them had accepted Christ on their death bed, they would have been saved! I wouldn’t have saved them, but God would – because God loves me! I know this is potent medication, friends. Have some more. We cannot do anything to keep God from loving us.

We may step out of the love of the direct will of God for our lives. We cannot stop the sun from shining but we can build roofs that never let one drop of sunlight in. Most people are not in the sunshine of His love. Most people have put up the roof of sin and indifference; and have stepped out of the will of God and block any chance of sunshine touching them. God still loves them, but He won’t save them by love. God saves us by grace. The price has been paid for our sins by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, and God can save us *if* we come to Him *His way!* His way is the only way, by the way. The idea that we can come to God our own way is foolishness. You and I didn’t write the Word of God; God made this universe and the rules in it. God did. Not us. Jesus saith, *“no man cometh unto the Father but by Me!”* ~