**God Demonstrates His Love**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 5:1-8**

**Wednesday Evening**

**May 8, 2024**

**Romans 5:1-8**

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 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.

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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

Saints, with the word therefore, Paul indicates a conclusion based on his previous argument. In chapter 4, Paul showed how sinners, both Jews and Gentiles, are justified by faith.

**Galatians 2:16**

“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified”

Here Saints, he begins to describe how having been made right in God’s sight by faith affects our relationship with God.

First, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

Having peace with God means there is no more hostility between us and God, no sin blocking our relationship with him.

More than that, a new relationship has been established, so we no longer dread the outcome of judgment but live under the protection established by God.

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

Saints, not only has Christ made us right with God, but he also has given us personal access to God, bringing us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand.

We have been brought into a place of favor with God. Instead of being his enemies, we are his friends—in fact, his own children.

**John 15:15**

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you”

**Galatians 4:5**

“to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons”

Saints, humankind was created for glory, but because of sin, had fallen “short of God’s glorious standard”

It is God’s purpose to recreate his image, his glory, fully in us so that we can confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

Anticipating our future with God ought to bring great joy. We stand in God’s grace, and the outcome of our lives is secure in his hands.

We no longer need to be haunted by thoughts of judgment; now we can reflect upon and respond to his grace.

**3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;**

Saints, problems and trials were a normal experience for first-century Christians.

On their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas preached in several cities, and many people became believers.

**2 Corinthians 11:23-28**

23 Are they ministers of Christ?--I speak as a fool--I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. 24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

Saints, but, as was always the case, there was an immediate backlash of persecution against believers.

For Christians, suffering does not negate the reality of God’s love, but provides the occasion to affirm and apply it. This character quality of learning to endure is not an end in itself.

**1 Peter 1:6-7**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

**4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

Saints, **i**t is one step in a process. Endurance develops strength of character.

**The word character (dokime) includes the idea of “approved as a result of testing.”**

A person with this kind of character is known for his or her inward qualities rather than any outward appearances.

The end result of this chain reaction is confident expectation of salvation—confidence that God is in control and will see us through.

The difficulties of life are not random, meaningless, or wasted when we are trusting God.

**5 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.**

Saints, our expectation that God will keep his promises will never disappoint us.

When our trust is in God, we are absolutely assured that he will fulfill all that he has promised—we will be resurrected to eternal life and will be with him in glory.

Why? Because he has already given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

The Holy Spirit continues to encourage us, reminding us how dearly God loves us. He loves us and will do as he has promised. (See also John 7:38; Romans 8:35; 2 Corinthians 5:14; Titus 3:5-6.)

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

**Titus 3:5-7**

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Saints, we can have hope in God because of the nature of his love.

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

Saints, God’s plan, from the beginning, was to send his Son to die for us, at just the right time, referring to both the timing in history and the timing in God’s plan.

**Galatians 4:4**

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law”

Saints, in the face of our helplessness, God was fully in control.

The events in human history did not determine the plan of salvation; the plan of salvation was designed by God to happen at just the right time.

We are saved only because God took the initiative and demonstrated his incredible grace and love by sending his own Son to take the punishment we deserved.

**7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.**

Saints, the highest expression of human love is when someone gives his or her life so that another person can continue to live.

People are able to understand sacrificial love, even though it is rarely practiced.

**John 15:13-17**

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

This kind of sacrificial gesture is almost always dependent on a relationship that already exists between the one sacrificing (parent, sibling, spouse, fellow soldier) and the one benefited.

Even so, people do not readily die for others.

**8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

Saints, but God’s love stands in stark contrast to even the deepest expression of human love because God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Christ’s death is the highest manifestation of God’s love for us.

While we were rebellious and despicable, Christ died for us so that we could come to God, find peace with him, and become heirs of his promises.

**John 3:16-21**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Christ did not die so that we could be made lovable; Christ died because God already loved us and wanted to bring us close to himself.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**