

Peace with God

Romans 5:1-2 New American Standard Bible (NASB, 1995)

5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction [kc: right to enter] by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Introduction

"Imagine two cliffs, separated by a vast, impassable chasm. On one side, there's you, and on the other, there's God and His celestial City—representing God's presence, His blessing, His peace and rest for eternity. A long time ago, there was a magnificent bridge connecting the two, allowing free passage. But sin, our rebellion against God, shattered that bridge. Now, we're stranded, yearning for the other side, trying everything—building makeshift rafts, shouting across the divide, even attempting to fly—but nothing works. The chasm remains. We might find temporary calm on our side, but it's not the true peace, the true connection we were made for " (adopted from Gemini illustrations)

This morning, we're going to think about that chasm, and how Christ the bridge has perfectly reconnected us to God, bringing us true peace with God.

Content

As your pastor, I daily pray that our Father in Heaven will fill your life with Shalom (His peace, harmony, balance, order, and completeness); I ask Him to bless you spiritually, emotionally, financially, and physically. But there's an important order to remember.

True Shalom (true peace and blessing) begins with peace with God in your spirit. Then, God's peace flows into your soul (that is, heart and mind), then into your relationships and work, and finally, health in your body. In that order. In other words: *Shalom with God is the foundation of peace in every other area of life.*

Paul calls this *Shalom with God—Peace with God*. True peace is not just an absence of conflict; it's the restoration of our relationship with our Creator, made possible only through Jesus Christ.

Peace with God:

So, what does it mean ‘Peace with God?’ Let me explain to you. Anyone before they become a Christian is a *natural* person (1 Corinthians 2:14). A natural person doesn’t know God nor Christ. Neither can he understand spiritual things at all, because the spirit of natural person is dead until they meet Christ who quickens it to life. Until that happens, in our natural state, no matter how morally good we are, we are in enmity with God, separated by our sin (1 Corinthians 2:14). Yet, when we believe in Jesus that He died on the cross for our sins and when we confess with our mouth that He is our Savior and Lord, Christ brings us back to God (1 Peter 3:18). We become reconciled with God in Christ. Romans 5:10 puts this way: *For if while 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.* Through the exchange of His life and ours, Christ reconciled us with God. As a result, we have peace with God. We become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Benefits of Peace with God:

When we are reconciled with God in Christ, certain benefits follow us: first, we become *adopted children of God* (“*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name*”---John 1:12).

Next, we have *access to God’s throne room* and enter it with confidence. Not because we’ve been good (our own righteous deeds are ‘filthy garments in God’s sight’---Isaiah 64:6), but because we are God’s children.

Third, we have *peace with God*. Jesus paid the wages of our sin so now we are *free from condemnation*. Because He died in our places, we are pardoned of our trespasses. Such act of God in Christ, Scripture calls, ‘*atonement*.’ We are spared from ‘*God’s wrath*’ because Christ took ‘*God’s wrath*’ upon Himself and paid the penalty once and for all for you and me.

Please note here that I used the phrase ‘*God’s wrath*.’ Actually, I just repeated what God’s Word says. We all love to say how loving and kind our Heavenly Father is. Yet, we seldom talk about the other side of God’s nature: *holiness and divine wrath*. Let me tell you this: until we realize how awful sin is and how dreadful it is to fall into God’s wrath, we will never fully understand how great God’s love is. Neither will we fully appreciate how amazing it is to receive God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness until we understand how sinful we are before the Holy God. E.g., Remember the song “Amazing Grace” by John Newton?

He called himself a *wretch*: *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a **wretch** like me....*

Please get this: If you deny that you are a sinner, you don't need Christ the Redeemer. And, if you have no Redeemer, your sins will remain unpardoned, and you will never have peace with God. You will never be in the presence of God because of your unresolved sins.

Listen carefully one more time. God is holy (Revelation 4:8) and we are sinners. Sin and God are like oil and water. They never mix. No sin is ever allowed in the presence of the Holy God. Such sin as idolatry, unrighteousness, pride, evil, and wickedness. Sin irks the holy God and provokes Him to anger. E.g., Israel in the Old Testament brought down God's wrath upon themselves through the sin of worshiping other gods for centuries.

I know God's wrath is not our favorite subject to talk about. Yet, we are squarely confronted with the truth on God's wrath in the Bible. The Bible deals with it frequently. From cover to cover. From Genesis to Revelation. The word 'wrath' appears 189 times (151 in the Old Testament/38 in the New Testament---80/20 ratio between two Testaments). It appears in 27 books out of 39 in the Old Testament and 10 books out of 27 in the New Testament. Altogether, 37 books out of 66. That's 56% of the time. God's Word often talks about God's wrath, yet God's people don't want to hear about it. Now, we need to know

What Triggers God's Wrath? Sin in general, but here are some examples.

1. *Idolatry* (2 Chronicles 34:25, 2 Kings 3:27)
2. *Despising and disobedience to God's words and scoffing at God's prophets and messengers* (2 Chronicles 36:16, 2 Kings 22:13).
3. *Ungodly and unrighteous people who suppress the truth. Stubborn and unrepentant hearts. Disobeying truth and obeying unrighteousness* (Romans 1:18, Romans 2:5, Romans 2:8).
4. *Evil, the wicked, iniquities, the arrogance of the proud, and the haughtiness of the ruthless* (Isaiah 13:11).

The real question is: who will rescue us from God's wrath? The answer is: Jesus. If you believe in the name of Jesus as your Savior through repentance, then you will receive forgiveness of your sins, and you will be spared from God's wrath. By confessing with your mouth that Jesus the sinless who reconciles and brings you the sinner to the Holy God, you will receive the free gift of Salvation through Him. Jesus is the One who restores peace with

God and makes us children of God. Please look at today's verses. Pay attention to the word 'through.'

*"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ,** ² **through whom** also we have obtained our introduction [kc: right to enter] by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."* We have Shalom with God through Jesus Christ (v. 1). Through Him alone we have access to God's throne room and to His grace (v. 2).

Through Jesus (v. 1 and 2): It is obvious that peace with God is only obtained through Jesus Christ. Not through anybody else. Not through Buddha. Not even through Moses. Not through yourself. Not through me. Not through our own merits of goodness, either. But, through Christ only. Listen to other references in the Bible that support today's text.

1 Thessalonians 1:10: and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, **that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 5:9: For God has not destined us for wrath, but for **obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,**

Romans 5:9: Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**

What's Your Decision?

God demands your decision on peace with Him through Jesus Christ. Right now. Ask yourself who Jesus is to you: is He the One as He claims He is? The one and the only one that would bring us back to God? Or, are there other means to do so, therefore, it makes Jesus a liar?

Jesus says, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the father but through Me* (John 14:6). Without Him, no one can come to the Father. Through Christ alone, we obtain peace with God. Through Christ alone, we become God's children. Through Christ alone, we have access to God's throne room. That is the absolute truth. A never changing truth. God's truth says, without Christ, no matter how hard we try, no matter how nice and gentle we are, we will not get peace with God. The peace with God is only available and obtained through Jesus Christ and by believing what He has done for us. John 3:36: *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

Conclusion

As we close today, I want to leave you with **two absolute truths** —two takeaways that should define your life this week:

1. **Peace with God is for NOW.** Justification (being right with God) isn't merely about escaping hell; it is about entering into a loving, peaceful relationship with your Creator **right now**. It transforms your **present** reality.
2. **Peace with God is through Christ ALONE.** True, lasting peace is not earned through our efforts, religious work, or good deeds; it comes **only through faith in Jesus Christ**—by accepting His finished work and His overwhelming grace.

The choice is yours. No one, not even God, will force you to choose something that you don't want or you don't agree with. However, please stop being indecisive between truth and lies. Either choose Christ and accept peace with God. Or choose other ways and reject what Christ claims. Make up your mind today.

If you would like to make peace with God, please say after me the following prayer:
Lord Jesus, I have sinned against God and many a time I didn't realize what I have done. I repent all my sins. Forgive me my sins. Thanks for paying the wages of my sin through Your own death on the cross. Since You bought me with price, I am free from condemnation and judgment of God's wrath. Please enter into my heart and be my Lord and King in my life. Thanks for the gift of peace with God and the gift of eternal life. From now on, I am yours and yours alone. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.