

Romans 5:1

Most unsaved people do not think of themselves as enemies of God...on the basis that they have no conscious feelings of hatred for Him, because they do not actively oppose His work, or contradict His Word... They consider themselves at worst...to be neutral.... But no such neutrality is possible...

Jesus said, "*He that is not with me...is against me...*"

There are many who do not think of themselves as enemies of God...on the basis of their goodness... Because they attend church, because they try and live "right"...they even profess the bible to be the word of God, and try to live according to its standards...and are "confident" within themselves that they are living in such a way, that they are ok...

It was to such a man that Paul was speaking too in 2:3... ³*And think thou this, O man, that judges them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

So, who is right with God? And how is it accomplished?

Well, the answer you will receive, depends on who you ask... The only problem with that is, there are not many ways to be right with God...there is but one! The one "outlined" in scripture...

We have been looking for some time now, on the subject of "*Man's Justification Before God...*"

This morning we find ourselves, in our verse-by-verse study of Romans, in chapter 5:1...

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

What Paul started back in chapter 1, has now come full circle... Back in 1:18...

(Romans 1:18) ¹⁸*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

This verse sets the theme for Paul's letter to the Romans... Paul is writing with a twofold purpose... One, is the warning of God's impending judgment on the unrighteousness of man. A Judgment that Paul spends 3 chapters of his letter speaking too and warning of... The span of his message, reaches from a God rejecting society, to the self-righteous religious man... Pointing out the fact, that all of mankind is guilty before God, and stand in wake of God's wrath...

That was the "*Bad news...*" the "*Good news*" is...God has provided a means of escape...

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

¹**Therefore**... Whenever you see a "therefore," always remember...you need to see why it is "therefore..." To do so, we must go back to Romans 3:20, where Paul begins to reveal "*God's plan of salvation*"... There are 4 words that keep "*coming up*" over and over...

"Justification"... 10 times

"Imputed"... 11 times ("*Reckoned, Counted*")

"Righteousness"... 11 times

"Faith"... **23 times**... ("*Believe*")

Like threads, woven into a garment...these words become the very fabric of man's cloak of righteousness.

²¹But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; ²²Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

²⁴Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁷Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: [but by the law of faith](#).

²⁸Therefore we conclude that [a man is justified by faith](#) without the deeds of the law.

³⁰Seeing *it is* one God, which shall justify the circumcision [by faith](#), and uncircumcision [through faith](#).

Over and over, we see the “*unmistakable truth*” that man is “*Justified by Faith...*”

Yet... as “*Clear*” as scripture is on the matter... there are many churches that have gathered together this morning, who are teaching a “**Works Based**” salvation.

Though I could give you a “*Name of a Church,*” or make reference to a particular “*Denomination*” this morning, I won’t... But rather, I will seek only to “**Make Known**” the truth of the scriptures...

You can know who holds to a “**Works based**” salvation, in that it is manifested by the fact, that their justification and right standing before God, is based solely on their “*So-called*” obedience to God’s word! They will readily admit, they are convinced that, if you “Do” all the right things, “Do” what the scripture says, and so on... that you gain entrance to heaven! These folks manifest they are under a works based salvation, in that if asked if they are going to heaven, they respond with... “*I hope so, I’m trying by best...*” which reveals the fact, they are basing their acceptance with God on the basis of their deeds!

My heart “*breaks*” for those people... Because, it’s not that they are not sincere...for they are... It’s not that they are not trying...for they do...It’s not that they aren’t trying to “*please God.*”

The problem is, there is only one way to PLEASE God... And that is by faith...

(Hebrews 11:6a) ⁶But *without faith* it is impossible to please him:

Jesus speaking to such, said...²⁸ *Come unto me, **all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*** ²⁹*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.* ³⁰*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

The “*faith*” that Paul declares here is one that has no faith in one’s works to attain it! The faith Paul speaks of here is a faith that admits our hopeless to do so and admits our sinful condition... A faith that turns from those things and places our hope and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ! Believing that “His Blood” and His blood alone is sufficient to appease the wrath of God by atoning for my sins!

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

Chapter 4 is likely the most important section in Paul’s argument, for justification by faith... Reason being, Paul points to Abraham as the example of this truth, by pointing to the fact that he acquired “**Peace with God**” solely on the basis of his “*Faith...*” Thus Abraham is the “*Example,*” the precedent as to how a man is made right with God...the man who is at peace with God...

Did Abraham “*Earn it*” by his righteousness?

Was he made “*Right*” with God on the basis of his works?

Absolutely Not... ^{4:3}*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. **Abraham was justified by faith...***

(4:13~16) Paul stresses that point in was has to be one of the “*Greatest Truths*” revealed in scripture...that “*faith*” is the only means...

(Vs 13~15) ¹³For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, **was not** to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: ¹⁵Because the law works wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

This has got to be one of the most glorious truths for the heart of a “Follower of Christ...”

Here, Paul reveals the “*Terms & Conditions*” of God’s covenant...

¹³For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, **was not** to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law... but through the righteousness of faith.

In other words, our “receiving” the blessings of God, would not be based on Abraham’s or our “Keeping” our end of the bargain! It wasn’t a conditional contract, in that if we “Failed” to live up to the terms and demands of the LAW... For if that were the case, then it would be “Rendered Null & Void”, the contract would be dissolved!

But thank God... that the “promise” comes through the “righteousness of faith...”

“God’s Promise” was **not based on Abraham or his children “Keeping” their end of the bargain... but rather it was based on God keeping His!**

It moves us away from “Trusting in our good works” to save us...(Works salvation)

...To that of “Trusting God to save us!” (Faith salvation)

My “Faith is IN GOD”...not me! If I could do it... I wouldn’t need God!

The question is... **Is Christ Blood sufficient for your sins?**

(Vs 16) Paul tell us “**WHY**” God established salvation by “faith”...

A marvelous statement... ¹⁶Therefore it is of faith, that it might be **by grace**; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Listen, If God established His “Salvation Plan” through the Law... **Who is it available too?** NOBODY! Because every one of us has fallen miserably short on our end... But seeing that God has established it on the basis of faith, it allows his Grace to be activated! Grace is “*unconditional, unmerited favor toward another...*”

¹⁶Therefore it is of faith, that it might be **by grace**; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed...

God has designed it that it be by faith, so that the promise is available to EVERYBODY!

Then, in verses 17~22, Paul brings to a close his teaching on “justification”, by dealing with one last issue that he knew that men would question and argue against concerning “*justification by faith.*” Paul knows, that many will argue on the basis, that such teaching allows for a man to “Live how he wants” and claim to be just before God...

And really, that’s the question Paul answers in verses 4:17~22...

¹⁷(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.

¹⁸Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

¹⁹And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

²⁰He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Far from "Living how he want's... The *Just* shall live by *faith*...

Abraham's life was "*Characterized*" by **FAITH!**

Abraham "*Believed God*", he "*Trusted God*"...and as a result, (Vs 22) God declared him **Just!**

²²And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

Having made that abundantly clear, Paul shifts his attention off of Abraham and onto his audience...US! In verses 23~25, Paul speaks to every man, every woman who reads this book, who searches the scriptures in earnestness to see "how to get right with God!"

²³Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; **But for us also**...

The "*Life of Abraham*" was forever recorded in scripture for all of mankind who follow, to know what it takes to be right with God! Paul told us that God "*Marked Abraham*" as being a "*Just & Righteous Man*" through the sign of circumcision! Circumcision didn't make him right with God...but merely "*Testified*" that he was!

²³Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; **But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him** that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

²⁵Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again **for our justification.**

Here Paul declares that Abraham was a "*Righteous Man*", one who enjoyed "*Peace with God!*" And anyone who hopes to be considered righteous, anyone who desires peace with God, will acquire it no other way, than the way of Faith!

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

I am at peace with God... I do not have any fear or doubt of my salvation... I do not say that on the basis of my "goodness"... My adherence to the word of God, or on the basis of my faithfulness...

But rather, I say that solely on the basis, of the sufficiency of Christ...

(2Timothy 1) ¹² ...I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.