

Romans 5:1b~5

What a blessing it is to be a “*follower of Christ...*” The more I looked to this passage, the more my heart rejoiced and was filled with praise. In the first 11 verses, I found 9 blessings that we have received through faith in Christ.

Tonight, I want to look at 4 of the blessings we receive through faith in Christ...

The first one, we looked at this morning... “**Peace with God...**”

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

I would to God, that he would help us to grasp the meaning of this text... I can't think of a greater blessing than to be “*at Peace with God...*” As a sinner, I deserve the “Full Wrath” of God, the judgment of God... But thanks be unto God, that because of what Jesus has done, I have been given “Peace with Him!”

The second and third blessings, are mentioned in verse 2...

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

The only real way to fully understand what Paul is saying here is to understand the Temple...

The temple was constructed such, that there were 3 designated areas, that were called courts...

- 1) The Gentile Court...
- 2) The Court of the Women... (*Sometimes called the Treasury*)
- 3) The Court of the Priest...

Then inside the large structure, which was called the “*Holy of Holies...*” was a place that only the High priest was allowed to go, and that only once a year... And inside the holy of holies, there were two rooms in one. It was a large room divided by a curtain, or what the bible calls a veil... On this side of the veil, was the Holy Place, and on the other side of the veil was the Holiest Place! And inside the Holiest, was kept the “Ark of the covenant.” And on top of the Ark of the Covenant, were two cherubim's, and in-between them, was what was called... “*The Mercy Seat.*” The place, which was said that God met the High priest every year... The place where the “*Shekinah Glory*” resided, the Spirit of God!

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

Paul is saying, that because of Christ, we have gained access into the Holy of Holies! To the very mercy seat of God, standing in the very presence of God's glory! All the barriers have been torn down, and we have gained access through the work of Christ!

Listen, for centuries...the Jews were kept from God's presence by the veil in the temple...

While the Gentiles were kept at a greater distance, kept out by a Wall in the Temple...

But when Christ died on the cross...the “*Gospels*” tell us, *that the VEIL was rent from top to bottom!* Not only that, but in Ephesians 2:11~18, Paul tells us that the “Middle wall of partition...” that was between the Jew and the Gentile, was broken down!

Through Christ, everyone now has access to the mercy seat of God and the Spirit of God!

Regardless of our “*inadequacies*” and “*infirmities...*” Through “Faith” which enables the “*Grace*” of God we, SINNERS, can enter into the presence of a Holy God!

No longer do our infirmities “hinder” us from enjoying fellowship with God!

Is there “*Something*” that you feel hinders your relationship with God?

Is there something you’ve been praying that God would take away...yet he doesn’t?

(2Corinthians 12) ⁷And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Our shortcomings, our inadequacies are no longer a hindrance...but rather, they have come to be a channel of blessing! In the fact, that the weaker we are, the stronger we become...

(Vs 2~3a...) ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also...

Faith enables us not only to rejoice in the “*Good Times*”, but also in the “*Bad Times...*”

Here Paul uses a very descriptive word for Tribulations... τηλιπσις...τηλιπθ-σις

It carries the meaning of being under *pressure*, *anguish*, *burdened*, *persecution*, *trouble*...

A word used to describe the “*Squeezing of olives*” in a press in order to extract the oil...

It was used to describe the “*Squeezing of grapes*” to extract the juice...

Nowhere is this word better illustrated than in 2Corinthians 1:3~10...

As a “*result*” of his “*service to the Lord...*” Paul suffered greatly... One thing I have learned... If you really try and serve the Lord with your life...Satan will reap havoc! Satan will not allow you to serve God without a fight! And Satan had unleashed his full arsenal against this man Paul!

The picture in Corinthians is that of squeezing the heart out of the grape... It also pictures that of a mule, broken down under the load...

⁸For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

Paul says, “*He felt sure it was over...he was going to die there*”

⁹But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead: ¹⁰Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;

Show Slides... You ever feel like an “*olive or grape?*”

Feeling like the weight of the world is on your shoulders? Crushing you underneath?

There is an “*amazing truth*” Paul is declaring here in Romans 5, is that being “*people of faith*” opens up channels of blessings that one never thought possible!

Paul’s saying... Instead of “squeezing the life **OUT** of us...” Tribulations **actually serve to build into our lives... LIFE!**

Look closely to what Paul is saying...

...knowing that tribulation works patience; ⁴And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

Look closely... The “*End Result*” of tribulations, is... What?
...*hope*...

That word “*experience*” carries the meaning of “*character...*” And what Paul is saying here, is that God uses trials and tribulations that we endure, to do a work in us...to build Christian Character! He uses them to “*Grow Us*” in Faith!

Our life is squeezed out...**but His is put in...the Holy Spirit!**

Show me a “*Believer*” who has undergone tremendous suffering and troubles, and I’ll show you someone who praises God, and one who exemplifies tremendous faith! Not because of anything they’ve done, but as a result of being in despair of oneself, and experiencing the faithfulness of God over and over!

When we undergo suffering and hardship, our faith provides us with strength to endure it... Because of our Faith in God, we come to learn of God’s faithfulness... And having learned through experience, God’s faithfulness, our faith in Him, our Hope in Him is made that much stronger!

Paul says... *Through faith, “The end result is always good...”*

(Vs 5) ⁵And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Through faith, we can actually “*Rejoice*” in tribulations, instead of being disappointed and discouraged...

Hope never disappoints us...God always comes through...

The end result... God grows our faith, as we experience His Faithfulness!

And floods our soul with His love through his Spirit!