

I. Introduction: What do you seek?

II. We have peace with God. v. 1 Past

- A. We previously were at war with God. 1:18-3:20 5:10 Heb. 10:29
1. We were God's enemies, in rebellion against His Lordship. 5:10 3:10-12 8:7
 2. God was our enemy Whose holy wrath was against us. 1:18 2:5,8 Ps. 7:11
Eph. 5:6 Co. 3:6
- B. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, has made peace between God and man.
Isa. 9:6 Col. 1:19-22 Eph. 2:14,17 Acts 10:36 II Co. 5:18-19
1. He has turned aside God's just wrath against us. 3:24-25 4:25
 2. He has turned our hearts to God.
- C. What is the nature of the peace God gives us through the Lord Jesus?
1. This peace is not merely a subjective feeling. Rather it is an objective fact.
 2. This peace occurs instantaneously when we believe and are justified.
 3. This peace is secure because it rests on Christ's work not yours.
 4. The objective peace with God leads to a subjective experience of God's peace.
 - a. The fact of a restored relationship with God gives us inward tranquility.
 - b. The Old Testament promised *shalom* in the Messianic age. Eze. 37:26
Ps. 72:7 Isa. 9:6-7 54:10 52:7 32:17 Mic. 5:4-5 Zech. 8:12 Hag. 2:9
 5. Just because we have peace with God doesn't mean we will have peace with the world. Jo. 16:33
 6. It is even possible to be at peace with God objectively, while failing to experience (feel) the peace of God. Phil. 4:4-9
- D. Are you at peace with God?

III. We enjoy the privilege of access to God. v. 2a Present and ongoing

- A. By nature we are unfit for God's Holy presence. Heb. 12:29 Isa. 64:6
- B. Jesus has made a way for us to draw near unto God. I Pe. 3:18
1. Through Him we have obtained an introduction into God's presence.
 2. He has given us a new status, making us acceptable to God.
- C. We enjoy direct access to God. Eph. 2:18 3:12 Heb. 7:25 10:19-22 Mt. 27:51
1. We enjoy an awesome privilege.
 2. This access is not merely periodic or occasional, but constant.
 3. This access is direct. We need no other mediator. I Ti. 2:5
 4. Our access is secure because of the standing our Lord Jesus has given us.
 5. Use your access to enjoy the blessings of God's presence: praise and pray more!

IV. We exult in hope of the glory of God. v. 2b Future

- A. By nature and by deed we fall short of God's glory. 3:23 1:21-23
- B. Through Jesus we will assuredly experience the glory of God. Col. 1:27 Heb. 11:1
It is so sure, we can "boast" about it. 3:27 4:2 I Co. 1:31 II Co. 10:17 Ga. 6:14

- C. There is glory in our future. 8:18,21 John 17:22,4 Titus 2:13
1. We will experience the wonderful manifestation of God's glory. Mt. 24:30 25:31
 2. We will share His glory. 8:30 Col. 3:4 I Jo. 3:2 Phil. 3:20-21
 3. Our future is secure. 8:29-30 Jude 24-25 Phil. 1:6
 4. Rejoice!

V. We can even exult in our afflictions. v. 3-5

- A. How can we joyfully boast in our tribulations? v. 3a 8:18 II Co. 4:17 I Pet. 4:13
1. Don't be surprised by troubles in this world. Jo. 16:33 15:20 II Ti. 3:12
Mt. 5:10-12 Acts 5:41 14:22 Phil. 1:27 I Pe. 4:19 II Co. 11:23-30 12:7-10
 2. Tribulation for the unbeliever produces the opposite result: bitterness and despair. Mt. 13:19,24 Lu. 12:15
 3. Paul is not suggesting that we take pleasure in the suffering itself.
 4. Nor is he saying that we exult in spite of our tribulations.
 5. Rather he is saying that we rejoice in the midst our tribulations because of the good that God is doing in our lives. Heb. 12:6 Js. 1:2
 6. There are lessons you cannot learn in any other way.
- B. God develops our character through affliction. v. 3b-4 12:6 Ps. 119:67,71 II Co. 12:7f
1. Through tribulation we develop perseverance. Js. 1:2-4 I Pe. 1:6-7 Heb. 12:1f
 2. Through perseverance our character is proven. I Pe. 1:6-7 Mk. 4:16-17 Js. 1:12
 3. As our character is proven, we gain hope. 8:18 II Co. 4:17
- C. The love of God makes your hope all the more certain. v. 5
1. Those who hope in God will never be disappointed. 9:33 10:11 I Pe. 2:6
 2. The ground of our assurance is God's love for us. v. 8 8:35,39
 3. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with the knowledge of God's love. 8:16 Jo. 14:16
 - a. Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit upon conversion. I Co. 12:13
 - b. He pours out the love of God within us. Jo. 7:38 Acts 2:33 Joel 2:28 Ti. 3:6
Ezek. 39:29 Zech. 12:10
 - c. He enables us to comprehend God's love. 8:35-39 Eph. 3:14-19 1:14

VI. Concluding Applications.

- A. Are you fully enjoying the benefits of justification?
- B. These blessings are not for everyone.

Num. 6:26 Jude 24-25

Discussion questions for family worship

1. What are the benefits of justification which Paul expounds in Romans 5:1-5?
2. What is the difference between the peace of God and peace with God? v. 1
Which is Paul speaking of here?
3. How did we gain access to God? v. 2a
4. Why don't we use saints and angels to mediate our prayers?
5. What is the hope of the glory of God? v. 2b
6. Why should we joyfully boast in tribulation? v. 3
7. How does God use trouble to develop your character? v. 3b-4
8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in giving us assurance of hope? v. 5
9. How do we know God loves us?