

2011 SERMON: ROMANS#5 RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS

Romans 5:1-17

Today we look at Romans 5

And the secret of gaining access into the throne room of God's peace.

Think of all the places and opportunities in life that

We would like to enter.

Every one of us has applied at some time for

A school, a scholarship, or a job,

SLIDE---Maybe a bank, or credit card,

Or maybe as a parent you tried to get your children

Into a preschool or daycare,

SLIDE---And you found yourself rejected, or at least ignored.

It's not a good feeling.

One young mother had had a hectic day with her four year old,. So when bedtime finally came, She laid down the law "We're putting on your pj's, brushing your teeth, and reading ONE book. Then it's lights out!" At that the little four year old put her arms around her mother in a gentle embrace and said: "We learned in Sunday school about little boys and girls who don't have mommies and daddies." Well at that tears welled up in the eyes of her mother who had been a grouch all day, feeling that the child was still grateful to have her. Then she heard her child whisper: "Maybe you could go be THEIR mom?" Wooow now that's rejection.

Stanford University received 34,348 applications and accepted only 7.07% of those applicants.

SLIDE---The three top reasons given for rejection for a job was

1. Not having a good enough understanding of what they are applying for.
2. Not doing their homework about the company
3. Not being prepared or able to demonstrate competence in the business.

That is exactly what the Apostle Paul wanted to avoid.

SLIDE---When it came to the understanding our access in to the throne room of God's grace.

1. We must be prepared.
2. We must study and do our homework,
3. And we must demonstrate competence in our belief.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^{F21} have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. Romans 5:1-2

We have gained access, been accepted!

And Today Paul wants us to understand the seven Blessing of our Justification.

THE SEVEN BLESSING OF OUR JUSTIFICATION

Just as there are privileges and blessing from getting a degree

From Harvard or Yale, or a Naval academy,

So there are special blessings at being a Christian.

First ,Blessing - Peace with God.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^{F21} have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

If we are unsaved we are in conflict with God.

We are at war with God.

Do you ever wonder why you live with a feeling of insecurity, guilt, emptiness

And your whole world seems to be in a spin

Isa 48:22 says: There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.

But we all like peace and quiet

Out here and in here.

One lady called her sister who had been ill, to see how she was doing. Her ten-year-old niece answered the phone. "Hello," she whispered. "Hi, Honey. How's your mother doing?" "She's sleeping," she answered, again in a whisper. "Did she go to the doctor?" I asked. "Yes. She got some medicine," her niece said softly. "Well, don't wake her. Just tell her I called. What are you doing, by the way?" Again in a soft whisper, she answered, "Practicing my trumpet."

Second, Blessing- We have gained access to God

through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Romans 5:2a

SLIDE----The veil in the temple kept the Jews from God's presence.

The wall in the temple kept out the Gentiles from God's presence.

Both had the warning that if you went beyond you would be killed.

Jesus death—Ripped the veil from top to bottom.

And earthquake broke down the walls. Eph 2:14

Now we have access to God directly. Heb. 10:19-25 Eph 2:18

“access” means “entrance to the king through the favor of another”.

Third, Blessing- We have glorious hope

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God Romans 5:2b

When we have hope in our life it changes our behavior.

Chicago Black Hawks hockey player, Stan Makita, was one of the highest-scoring players in the National Hockey League. He was also one of the most penalized players for his infamous fights on the ice. One day his eight-year-old daughter asked, "Daddy, how can you score goals when you're always in the penalty box?" His sportsmanship changed dramatically—that day! Makita went on to win the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy for sportsmanlike conduct twice and to be regarded as the best center in the 1960s, all he needed was a word of hope from his little girl.

“Peace with God” takes care of the past-- God no longer holds our sin against us.

“Access to God” takes care of the present --We can come anytime for the help we need.

“Hope of the glory of God” takes care of the future--We shall one day share in His glory.

Fourth, Blessing is Christian Character

Here as a Christian we discover that our trials,

Our suffering, our tribulations, will

work for us and not against us.

³Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3

In other words we will hold up and not fold up.

Did you hear about the couple who after years of scrimping and saving, the husband told his wife the good news: "Honey, we've finally saved enough money to buy what we started saving for in 1979." She said: "You mean a brand-new Cadillac?" he said "No, a 1979 Cadillac."

Tribulation –comes from the Latin word tribulum.
It is a heavy piece of timber with spikes in it,
Used for the threshing of grain.
It separated the wheat from the chaff.
The trials of life purify us and help us get rid of the chaff.
Tribulations= patience= proven character= hope

Fifth, Blessing is God's love within

⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Did you notice that in these first 5 verses we have received
5 attributes of the HOly Spirit.

Faith 5:1

Hope 5:2

Joy 5:2

Peace 5:2

Love 5:5

All combined to give the believer patience in the trials of life.
We could almost say 5 is a lucky number.

I hear of a 55 year old man who was born on May 5th, married 5 years, had 5 children, made \$55,555. a year, and what do you suppose his lucky number was-5. He received a phone call from a friend, who informed him that a horse name Lucky 5 was running in the fifth race at the local track. Excitedly, the man withdrew \$5,555.00 cash from his bank account, went to the races and bet on Lucky 5 to win. Sure enough, the horse comes in fifth

God's love has nothing to do with luck,
It has to do His abiding Love for us.

Sixth, Blessing-Salvation from future wrath 9-10

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:9

If God saved us when we were enemies

How much more will he care for us now that were his children?

If Christ's death brought us to life

What do we suppose his living will do for us as he intercedes?

¹⁰For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:10

We will inherit the blessing God has prepared for us.

Christ died and that brought his will into effect.
And at his death we inherited all that he promised to us.
Now remember a will is of no effect until you die.
I hope you all have a will and
I hope your will won't go into effect for a long time.

Jack died. His lawyer was reading his will before the family. It read: "To my dear wife Esther, I leave the house, 50 acres of land, and 1 million dollars. "To my son Barry, I leave my Big Lexus and the Jaguar. "To my daughter Suzy, I leave my yacht and \$250,000. "And to my brother-in-law Jeff, who always insisted that health is better than wealth, I leave my treadmill." And to my Mother-in-law who said she would never be mentioned in my will, I say:Hi mom.

Jesus wrote us into his will
He wrote it with his blood.

**This cup is the new Testament in My blood,(new will in my blood) which is shed for you
Luke 22:20**

When Jesus died the will went into effect.

When he rose from the dead and returned to heaven

He became the advocate of that will and distributed the inheritance himself.

We are saved by his life.

Seventh, Blessing -Reconciliation with God

! ¹⁴Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

When you reconcile

First it assumes that there has been a rift, a separation.

A marriage that is reconciled has a history of conflict and enmity.

Reconciled -- means we are brought back into relationship.

That is what the rest of chapter 5 is all about.

SLIDE---Paul was trying to clarify what Christ reconciliation was really gives us.

As in Adam all die,

So in Christ all are made alive.

First of all recognize that death come to us and our human nature through Adam.

¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ

Now let's make sure we understand what we got through Adam.

We inherited a sinful nature.

The Augustinian Heresy—suggested we inherited Adam's sin.

And Because Adam sinned we are all condemned.

Universal destruction?

But this also led to universal salvation in Christ.

Because in Christ we are all made alive.

Scripture says: Children shall not be put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin. Deut 24:16b

We are sinful by the choices concurred out of our sinful nature..

We Wesleyan Methodists believe

That there is a sinful nature in which we are born.

Which we then choose to live in sin.

Which we inherited from Adam.

Remember Romans 3 says:

There is no one righteous not even one, no one who seeks God. All have turned away...no one who does good not even one. Romans 3:10-12

Boy nothing shows that more than traffic. The other day, A woman was trying to get out of a tight parking space. She bump the car in front, then backed-up and strike the car behind her. This went on about 2 minutes. A man walked over to see if he could somehow help. His offer was declined. She said, "Why have bumpers if you're not going to use them once in a while?"

That is a good description of our sinful nature.
When we use our bumpers much more than we need too.

Adam sinful nature
---leads to—
Fallen Human nature
--leads to—
People sinning
--Leads to—
condemnation.

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. Romans 5:12—

But the opposite is also true:
Christ death sets us free.

Christ's sinless nature
--Leads to--
People Forgiven
--Leads to--
Justification
--Leads to--
Eternal Life

¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

The righteous nature of Christ is available to us.
But it is by our choice.

That is why the law was given,
To make sure we understood our choices.

²⁰The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, Romans 5:20

The law also revealed the abundant grace that God offers us in Christ.

²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:21

Note that the word reign is used five times.

Reign implies –choice.

We have a choice.

To stay in Adams kingdom or
to move into Christ' kingdom.

To let sin reign over our lives.

Or to let Christ reign over our lives.

Behold all who are in Christ are new creations, the old has gone and the new has come.

II Corinthians 5:17

Christ's reign not only undid all the damage that Adam's sin effected,

He accomplished much more.

The word "Much more" is repeated 5 times.

In Jesus Christ we have gained much more

Than we ever lost in Adam.

The much more is not just a new nature.

But a new family,

We are made in to the sons and daughters of God.

A new heritage

We are made into eternal beings.

A New inheritance

Receiving the glory of God.

We can't help our being born in Adam,

For this came by your first birth over which we had no control.

But we can help staying in Adam.

For we can experience a second birth.

A spirit birth from above

That will put us in Christ kingdom.

That is why if you want to enter Jesus kingdom,

Jesus said: "You must be born again." John 3:7

Listen to the words of our closing hymn

Born of the Spirit with life from above

Into God's family divine.

Justified fully through Calvary's love,

Oh what a standing is mine.

And the transaction so quickly was made,

When as a sinner I came.

Took of the offer of grace he did proffer,

He saved me oh praise his dear name.

