

July 25, 2021

“Peace with God”  
Lesson 3 of Unit

Romans 5:1-11

### **Intro**

Our lesson text had a really good analogy that sets up the study passage for this week.

“In the 1964 Cold War epic movie *Fail Safe*, a series of mistakes sends a squadron on American planes with nuclear bombs to annihilate Moscow, Russia. Despite every conceivable effort by the American president, he was unable to stope the mission.

“Realizing that the Soviet Union’s capital city would be destroyed—and desiring to avoid world-wide thermonuclear devastation from retaliatory strikes—the president made a deal with the Soviet premier. They agreed that at the same time the bombs hit Moscow, an equal nuclear strike would lay waste to New York City. Thus an equivalent “eye for an eye” act would even the accounts. The president agreed to this realizing that his beloved wife was in New York City. He knowingly decided to sacrifice her for the sake of world peace.

“The saving of hundreds of millions of lives was more important than any single life, even that of the First Lady. Parallels between this fictional trade-off and today’s lesson are thought-provoking.”

### **Read Romans 5:1-11**

#### 1. vs. 1: Peace with God

The first half is a review/reminder of what Paul has been developing in chapters 1-4, and references things he said about Abraham particularly in chapter 4.

The key idea is that we are “justified through faith”, and not works

The second half is the theme of the rest of chapter 5, and the rest of Romans

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Paul has noted that “all have sinned” Rom. 3:23

In 4:25, he says that “Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins”

God’s actions in sending Jesus to die is what justified us before God

Jesus’ death satisfied God’s wrath against our sins

Jesus’ death was the means for our peace with God

Since the price has been paid, there is no debt of sin owed God anymore

If we accept His terms, God sees us as righteous, not deserving punishment

A play-on-words helps us remember the point of justification

Justified = “Just as if I’d” never sinned

#### 2. vs. 2: Grace and Hope

The first part of vs. 2 says “we have gained access by faith into this grace”

Grace is something undeserved which is given

There are no works here, only grace

Faith in the saving death of Christ is what gives us this grace

The second part says “the hope of the glory of God”  
This hope is not like the world uses the word  
“One can only hope”  
This view is that what is wanted won’t happen  
The Biblical writers use hope in a much more positive way  
They mean “confident expectation of something good”  
Instead of fear or resignation, here we “boast in the hope of glory”  
What is the basis of our hope? It is in Jesus Christ, not man or ourselves  
We are confident of Christ because of what he has done  
He is always the same, never changing (Heb. 13:8)  
Through Christ, we have peace (vs. 1) and grace and hope (vs. 2)  
Hope is a significant theme in Romans  
Paul uses the word 17 times in Romans

### 3. vs. 3: Suffering produces patience

Jesus told His disciples that they would have suffering in this world (John 16:33)  
Looking at those sufferings incorrectly could cause us to lose hope  
Looking at them correctly has a positive benefit  
We will grow in patience if we handle our sufferings with the right attitude  
Sufferings teach us to wait on God’s timing and purpose  
We see from a human perspective, not from God’s  
We could miss the good God intends by losing hope  
Remember the old saying: “Patience is a virtue”

### 4. vs. 4: Patience leads to two other positive benefits

#### Character

The dictionary defines character, as the word is being used by Paul, as “the main or essential nature of something”  
The word is only used 7 times in the NT, all by Paul  
The original Greek word is translated, besides “character”, as “test”, “proof”, and “trial”  
The overall idea here is of being tested to show or improve one’s nature  
Paul notes here that patience/perseverance leads to improving our character

#### Character produces hope

Character is developed through testing and trial (vs. 4)  
That character is a result of being patient  
So the direction here is patience leads to character which leads to hope  
What are we hoping in / for?  
God’s faithfulness in the past, to us and to all peoples, gives us confidence  
We know God is for us, so we have a positive hope for the future

### 5. vs. 5: The value of hope

What we hope in does not shame us  
Paul has said, “I am not ashamed of the gospel” (1:16)  
The gospel is the whole revealed truth about God and kingdom living

We are not ashamed of God, his truths, or his leading  
“We are not fools to hope in God’s love” (from out text)

This hope we have didn’t come from us  
“God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit”  
God’s love and God’s Spirit are both gifts from God  
These are His instruments to help us grow spiritually

6. vs. 6: Two things are highlighted in this verse

“At just the right time...Christ died”

This death is the center of the Christian faith  
His enemies thought they were defeating Him, but God planned this all along  
Christ’s death happened at God’s perfect timing

“Christ died for the ungodly”

Romans 1-3 deals heavily with the fact that all humanity is sinful  
Ungodly people turn their backs on God knowingly, willingly  
This includes all of us  
Yet Christ died for the ungodly, despite the fact that we were ungodly!

7. vs. 7: This verse considers the relative value and worth of classes of people

A *righteous* person and a *good* person seem to be essentially the same  
Both are people that others respect because of their good deeds and kindness to others  
Paul is using these as examples from a human perspective  
Note that Paul says that even for people like this, not very many would die for them

8. vs. 8: This verse contrasts God’s love with our human views

Humans won’t die for one of their own who is good and righteous  
God sent Jesus to die for us when we were still sinners  
This shows that God’s love and mercy isn’t dependent on how “good we are”  
This also ties in with Jesus telling His followers to “love your enemies”  
If Jesus loved His “enemies” enough to die for them, His followers should  
also love their enemies enough to do good for them

9. vs. 9: The first part reminds us of vs. 7-8

We have been justified by Christ’s blood, not our own works

The second part is a reminder of one benefit of that justification

“we shall be saved from God’s wrath through Him!”

We no longer need to live in fear of God’s wrath at our sinfulness  
We have salvation / justification through Christ’s blood  
We are no longer in the same position to earn God’s wrath

10. vs. 10: Not only have we been justified, but we are also now reconciled to God  
Our sinfulness separated us from God  
God made the way via Jesus' death to bring us back to Himself

11. vs. 11: Paul says these things lead to "more"  
Our reconciliation and our justification are things to be rejoiced over  
Just like earlier, where perseverance led to character, which led to hope, here our  
reconciliation and justification lead to "boasting"  
Paul says, "we boast in God" for what He did to reconcile and save us  
"We have received reconciliation"

Application: It's important to take this lesson from the macro to the micro, from the big picture to the small case. The things that Paul says here about God are absolutely true: God has chosen to love those who opposed Him to such a degree that He sent His Son to die for their sins. That's the macro picture. And we are called to bring that concept down to our individual lives. God sent Jesus to die for you individually. And that death brought us back into a state of peace with God. The big picture is true, but so is the smaller, individual case. God loves you, me, each individual person.

Prayer: Father God, thank you for Your great love for us, that though we were sinners, You still loved us enough to send Jesus to die for us, to bring us back to You. That you that You are our hope, the one in whom we place our trust and confidence. In Jesus' name, Amen.