



PROLOGUE

Chapter 5 marks a significant shift in Paul's presentation. Up to this point he has been focusing on the topic of righteousness (who is righteous? and how does one become righteous?). Romans 5–8 changes focus to the *life* that results from being righteous by faith. Paul now emphasizes the benefits that justification through faith in Christ Jesus gives (peace, hope, victory over death, love of God, etc.). In other words, Paul describes how the reception of God's righteousness by faith leads to a new and eternal life.



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

Paul begins by writing: "Therefore, after being declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus **Christ.**" This declaration has many tangible and wonderful results in the life of the Christian. First of all, this declaration is a Divine Passive; a forensic declaration, which, as you may recall, means that God has proclaimed or declared you righteous from faith in Christ Jesus.



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

Paul, secondly, highlights "peace with God." We are no longer enemies of God who face His wrath (cf. Romans 1:18-3:20), since we have been reconciled to God and are at peace. This is a *present reality*, not merely something that we look forward to at the end of time.



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

This peace was not accomplished through our negotiation or as part of the spoils from our victory, but is a peace accomplished through our Lord Jesus Christ. This peace is a relationship that you <u>now</u> have with God! As we have studied in Romans 1-4, the establishment of this relationship did not come about in any way from you to God; even for Abraham (cf. 3:19-20; 4:2). Again, this relationship is only through our Lord Jesus Christ!



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God. Yet, that's not all! Paul also stresses the present results of justification: "through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand...," (v.2). The phrase implies ritual access to God's gracious presence as occurs in worship through Word and Sacraments (Means of Grace) (also, think of the Old Testament temple). Once again, the undeserved and unmerited aspect of this status before God is emphasized with the mention of INTO THIS GRACE! This expresses the full theological sense of God's underserved kindness and favor as more fully described in 3:24.



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

Then Paul further defines grace with: in which we stand. His grace provides for you a "sheltered place!" Theologically speaking, again, we did not stand ourselves up by any exertion (work) of our own! This is fully God's declaration of righteousness which He did so: "through the redemption, the one in Christ Jesus" (3:24).



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

The *present* results of justification continue to be expressed in Vv.2b-5 with the verb form "we boast" [Gr: καυχώμεθα; properly, living with "head up high," i.e., boasting from a particular vantage point by having the right base of operation to deal successfully with a matter. Additionally, this verb is always in the Middle/Passive Voice, which means you have been given a reason, a vantage point for boasting by what has been done for you!] and the noun "hope" [Gr: ἐλπίδι; properly, expectation of what is sure or certain].



we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

Our future glorified state (restoration of "...the glory of

(restoration of "...the glory of God") is so certain in Christ that "we boast" now in anticipation and are already filled with "hope."

¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith,

Results of God's Righteous Declaration



¹Therefore, having been declared righteous from faith, we do have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained and retain access [by faith] into this grace in which we stand, and we boast upon hope of the glory of God.

Moreover, "we boast upon hope of the glory of God"; do you see the connection with Romans 2:17, 23; 3:27; and 4:2?

Thusly, "we boast upon hope of the glory of God" is proper and praised (cf. 1 Cor. 1:31 and 2 Cor. 10:17)!



³And not only [this], but we are also boasting with pressures, knowing that pressure is accomplishing patient endurance, ⁴ and patient endurance [is accomplishing] tested character, and tested character [is accomplishing] hope.

Unlike the world, we boast even in our present struggles and suffering; or the literal translation: [θλίψεσιν and θλίψις – pressures or pressure carries the challenge of coping with the internal pressure of a tribulation, especially when feeling there is "no way of escape" (to be hemmed in)].



³And not only [this], but we are also boasting with pressures, knowing that pressure is accomplishing patient endurance, ⁴ and patient endurance [is accomplishing] tested character, and tested character [is accomplishing] hope. ⁵Now hope will not put [us] to shame because the love of God has been poured out and remains within our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

You see, St. Paul is really a Lutheran; since, he now exhibits the "Theology of the Cross!"

Suffering not only shaped our Lord's life, but it also shapes the lives of all His faithful ones!

Therefore, we not only accept the suffering that comes because of our faithfulness to Christ, but we even "boast" in it!



³And not only [this], but we are also boasting with pressures, knowing that pressure is accomplishing patient endurance, ⁴ and patient endurance [is accomplishing] tested character, and tested character [is accomplishing] hope. ⁵Now hope will not put [us] to shame because the love of God has been poured out and remains within our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

Suffering (pressure(s)) results from sin in this world, however, God uses suffering for good in our lives; it leads to *patient* endurance; tested character, and hope (v.4). The chain sequence that we see here implies a process of maturing and its end point is no different from the hope into which they entered in first believing (v.2).



God's
Purpose in
the
Pressures of
Life

⁵Now hope will not put [us] to shame because the love of God has been poured out and remains within our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

Verse 5 shows how the "hope of the glory of God" comes to us! The words "has been poured out" paint an image that calls to mind Holy Baptism. This connection is supported by the prominence that Paul gives to Baptism in Romans 6:1-4. Although Baptism is not the only way that God pours His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, it is the most probable source of this image. Once again, the phrase "has been poured out and remains within our hearts by the Holy Spirit" is another Divine Passive! God is doing this great work; just as He does in Holy Baptism!

In Conclusion



"God has given us the greatest gift possible and in profusion...What is this gift? It is the Holy Spirit!"1

¹Chrysostom, Homilies on the Epistle to the Romans, 9 (Bray, Romans, ACCS NT 6:130).

ROMANS 5:6-11

Christ Died in Our Behalf

Part 2:
Present Reconciliation –
Future Salvation

Next Week