



April 24, 2022 ~ "Peace Purchased" ~ Romans 5:1-11

OPEN

Today, I had hoped to provide you with a "Peace To You" booklet...but they did not arrive. Yet this is our Easter theme: "Peace To You". This is the word Jesus spoke to His rattled followers as they tried to comprehend His resurrection. And we noted that peace isn't just about what God does in resurrection, it is also about who He is as *Jeohvah Shalom*.

Today we consider how God has accomplished redemption – making it possible for a sinfully separated human be bought/brought back into a relationship with Him. Today, we reflect on "Peace Purchased" which could be described as a "prequel to Easter".



Lately, there have been many calls for peace in Ukraine. War is perhaps one of the ultimate and ugliest destroyers of peace. However, we do not need to leave our country to have a lack of peace. This week an Angus Reid survey was released. "[Religion, Faith and the Public Square](#)" reveals increasing trends in Canada away from faith.

53 percent think the country does too much to accommodate religion....The most startling finding is the relatively tepid support for the very concept of religious freedom.

As we noted last Sunday, a lack of peace can also be a very personal experience. But the Good News of Jesus is that peace *with* God and *of* God is possible. We need to continually be awakened to the amazing gift of being at peace with God!

To explore this, we will start in the middle of our passage – **Romans 5:6-8** which sets the stage for three powerful expressions of peace with God. On this amazing footing of God's redemption plan, Paul presented three blessings of peace that made him **rejoice** ("exult; triumph" vv. 2,3,11). His presentation intensified three times:

v. 1 – "therefore" v. 3 – "not only this" v. 9 – "much more then"

Following our look at Romans 5:1-11, we take communion which also nurtures our **joy** in the finished work of Jesus on the cross and from the tomb.



DIG

I. We rejoice in our introduction - verses 1-2

Justification is a judicial declaration that one's guilt is gone. The believer has been given a new standing before God. This is a position of peace in the sense of wholeness *and* reconciliation! Such peace comes through Jesus who provides us with "introduction" or "access" to God (prosagwghn, v.2). Humanity recoils against this because we want to barge into God's presence on the basis of our own goodness. We must be introduced, by faith, into God's grace. Jesus accomplished it - we rejoice!

And why not rejoice in God? His people have been reconciled to Him by the death of Christ, and experience daily deliverance from evil through the resurrection life of Christ, while the end to which they confidently look forward is no longer the outpouring of divine wrath but the unveiling of God's glory. (*Tyndale NT Commentaries: Romans*, F.F. Bruce, Eerdmans, 1963,121)

The Colt revolver was developed as a military service weapon and has basically stayed the same design since 1873. In fact, it is the state firearm of Arizona. It has been dubbed the "peacemaker". But no human force can create peace between God and man. Only the sinless, substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus can provided us access into God's family. This grace causes us to stand (v. 2).

II. We rejoice in our tribulation - verses 3-5

"As an old Scots preacher put it, 'peace is joy resting; joy is peace dancing.'" (F. F. Bruce, 120) Now these verses do not immediately suggest joy. Yet there is triumph in tribulation because of peace with God!

A person at peace with God moves from tribulation to perseverance to character to hope. And we read in verse 5 such hope does not lead to disappoint or shame. This hope leads to a deeper experience of God's love than we could imagine! *"When he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."* (Job 23:10).

Peace movements may disappoint. Peacemaking efforts may fail. But the Prince of Peace never fails to provide us with hope. Jesus *"entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."* (Hebrews 9:12) The quality of God's love and peace has been eternally defined and expressed in Jesus Christ. *"You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich."* (II Corinthians 8:9)

III. We rejoice in our salvation - verses 9-11

What more is to be celebrated? *"How much more!"* Why? Because we are not just dealing with the reality of rescue but also the possibility of *real, life change* or transformation! First, the **shed blood of Jesus** delivers from future divine punishment – *"saved from God's wrath"* (v.9, swqhsomeqa; future/passive; see Romans 3:23-25a).

The **resurrected body of Jesus** imparts His divine life! Following Jesus is not just for future glory in heaven rather than hell. It means being *"saved through his life"* in the here and now. We are invited to live in Christ's resurrection power (Ephesians 1:18-20). The truth and power of Jesus' resurrection was the main marker of the early Church, as we see in the story of Acts. They were linked to His resurrection – they were *in Christ*" as Paul often expressed it.

In his book ***The Saving Life of Christ*** (Zondervan, 1961), which is focused on the truth of Romans 5:10, Major Ian Thomas posed this question and conclusion,

Can any situation possibly arise, in any circumstances, for which He is not adequate? Any pressure, promise, problem responsibility, or temptation for which the Lord Jesus is not adequate? If he be truth God, there cannot be a single one...To be *in Christ* – that is redemption; but for Christ to be *in you* – that is sanctification. To be *in Christ* – that makes you fit for heaven; but for Christ to be *in you* – that makes you fit for earth! To be *in Christ* – that changes your destination; but for Christ to be *in you* – that changes your destiny! The one makes heaven your home – the other makes this world His workshop. (19-20)

REFLECT

Gavrilo Princip was the man who fatally shot Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophia on June 28, 1914. This set off a chain of events that resulted in the first World War.

There in Sarajevo, a memorial marker to this event was destroyed in the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. But later a memorial marker was replaced near the site stating, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in Bosnian, Serbian and English.

It was an eternally more profound assassination of a King when Jesus died on the cross. Yet His death brought life, hope, and reconciliation! Jesus came to "make peace" between sinful humanity and Holy God. And we celebrate His gift of grace today.

Here are two powerful poems to help you reflect and rejoice in God's grace.

"The Way of the Cross"

Annie Johnson Flint

*Some of us stay at the Cross, some of us wait at the tomb,
Quickened and raised with Christ, yet lingering still in the gloom.*

*Some of us bide at the Passover Feast with Pentecost all unknown:
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place that our Lord has made our own.*

*If Christ who had died had stopped at the Cross, His work had been incomplete.
If Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb, He had only known defeat.*

*But the Way of the Cross never stops at the Cross, and the way of the tomb leads on
To victorious Grace in the heavenly place, Where the Risen Lord has gone.*

"Stricken, Smitten, And Afflicted"

Thomas Kelly

*Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis He! 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By His Son God now has spoken: 'Tis the true and faithful Word.*

*Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning, foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, none would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that Justice gave.*

*Ye who think of sin but lightly nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed, see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.*

*Here we have a firm foundation; here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded who on Him their hope have built*