

XXX. Romans in Biblical Perspective
The Gospel of God
“Five Legacy Gospel Blessings, Part 5—The Holy Spirit”
Romans 5:1–5
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November 21, 2021 • Sunday Morning Sermon

This will be our last study in Romans 5:1–5 and this study will bring us to the Lord’s Supper. Romans 5:1–5 says *[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

The grass withers, the flower fades, the Word of our God abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

The book of Ephesians says that Christ dwells in you, so do you believe that? So, where is Jesus right now? Christ was raised from the dead, His body is glorified and after 40 days He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Then at the right time He is coming again. So, how does Christ dwell in you? Do you believe that Christ strengthens you? How does He strengthen you? Do you believe that Christ will be with us until the end of the age? I thought He was at the right hand of the Father. Do you believe that Christ speaks to you through His Word – read and preached? How does Christ bring dead sinners to life? How does Christ bring those saved sinners to Himself?

This is where the Apostle Paul now brings us in Romans 5. I realize I’m older now but I’m still a child at Christmas, pretty much. I love the Advent season and that Christ came into this world to save us from our sins. I love all the bright colors at the Christmas season, and the joy we have when we sing ‘Joy to the World’ because the Lord has come. One of the reasons I love this season is because it was a big deal in my family. I had three sisters and two are with the Lord now but one of those was my older sister. I was close to all my sisters but I was very close to my older sister because we were together for so many years and she became my best friend. One of the reasons I love her is because she got my name every Christmas.

After we all grew up and had kids and all, our Reeder Christmas day deal went from everyone bringing a couple of presents to drawing names and we’d put a limit. What I loved even about that was that my sister Vicki, every year found a way to get my name. When my sister met her husband Calvin, I did the premarital counseling and this is what I told Calvin. One of the areas that can cause problems in marriage is finances and I love my sister but she can spend money she has and money she doesn’t have. Calvin said ‘Don’t worry Harry, I made her a budget.’ I said to him ‘With all due respect, I’ve known my sister for 40 years, would you like to know how many budgets I’ve seen her destroy in her lifetime? So, you will need to come up with something better than that.’

We had a \$50 limit at Christmas when we drew names but my sister Vicki somehow kept adding to that limit, but I not only loved her big heart which I benefited from at Christmas but she wanted to make it fun. One of her favorite tactics at Christmas was giving my a gift that at the bottom of the gift had a note that said ‘open the next one.’ I would open the next one and it

was related to the other one but it took it to another level and at the bottom of that second gift was another note that said ‘open the next one.’ Then again and finally she would get to ‘that’s it’ but her gifts kept doing that.

I want to point out the word ‘therefore’ at the beginning of Romans 5:1 and now look at Romans 4:24b–25 which says [24b] *It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, [25] who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.* Jesus, who died for our trespasses, gave Himself for our sins and was raised for our justification. Jesus did not die a model death although there is much you can learn from it. Jesus didn’t die a martyr’s death at the hands of men. Jesus freely gave Himself in our place and took upon Himself our sins to bear God’s judgment for our sins. Jesus died an atoning death. How do we know that Jesus has been victorious? It is because of the resurrection, for He was raised for our justification.

Understanding the atoning death of Christ and the resurrection from which He ascended to heaven Paul now gives us five Gospel legacies, blessings for us. If you’re a Christian today there are so many blessings we have that we could spend so much time talking about them. Paul sums it up this way in Ephesians 1:3, [3] *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, through Christ our Lord.* Paul doesn’t give us all the blessings, just five legacy blessings, that when understood, transform your life from the bottom up and the inside out. Just like my sister’s sacrificial giving of gifts, each one leads to the other. Now I want you to look beyond to see Jesus who is God’s gift for you.

John 3:16 says [16] *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.* Then His Son gave Himself in our place for us to save us from our sins. At that point, the Bible says in II Corinthians 5:21, [21] *For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.* Because of His atoning death and triumphant resurrection, the ascended Savior has now through the Apostle Paul communicated to us in His Word five legacy gifts from Jesus that you can build your life on that will transform your life, not for salvation but for your Savior. That is where we have been in the last four studies and we took time in each one of them.

If you have been saved, justified, by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone then here is legacy blessing number one – you have peace with God. You didn’t before for we are born at enmity against God. Christ died for His enemies. Our assault weapon against God’s holiness is our sin – our self-absorption, self-promotion. We’re okay with Christianity if we can have God in our back pocket and call on Him whenever we want Him but that’s not the Jesus who is the Lord of glory. Christ has given Himself for us and we are not our own. The One whom we belong to is called the Prince of Peace. Christ has provided the Good News, the Gospel of peace. We are no longer at enmity with God but we are right with God.

Jesus says in John 14:27, [27] *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.* Then He says in John 16:33, [33] *I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.* You have peace with God and the peace of God that guards your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. So now that you have peace with God, what does that mean? You go to the next gift.

Because you have peace with God through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, you now have legacy blessing number two – access to God and standing with God. At any point in time, you can go to God and say these words, “Father...” “Our Father...” You can call upon

Him for encouragement, comfort, consolation, strength, wisdom and you can call out to Him praise, glory and honor. You can come together with His people and you have access to Him to bring praise to Him in gathered worship. You can serve Him every day of your life with direct access to Him and He is with you. With this access you also have standing with God. When you call upon Him you come in the name of His Son, your Lord and Savior. He has made the way and sprinkled it clean.

That means you can now go from falling short of God's glory to the third legacy blessing, the next gift – rejoicing in the hope of His glory. As the hymn, Blessed Assurance says, you can now have;

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.*

The English Standard Version in Romans 5:2 uses the word ‘**rejoice** in the hope of the glory of God’ but I like the New American Standard which says you can now **boast** in the hope of the glory of God. You can exult in the hope of glory. I don't care what it is you encounter in this life and praise God for it, but I can tell you as a Christian, the best is yet to come always. I don't have to look back and live in nostalgia. I can learn from the past but I don't need to live in it and I don't need to put my hope in the present for I know what's coming – the Savior with a new heavens and a new earth. I'm His and He's mine.

That then leads us in this broken world to the fourth legacy blessing which is to rejoice in our sufferings. He doesn't say we rejoice in sufferings for we're not sadists. We rejoice in *our* sufferings, why? We have a sovereign God who has taken the brokenness of this world and when it comes against us or the seemingly collateral damage falls upon us – believers get sick, lose jobs, whose business fail – He is putting the pressures (sufferings) to polish, perfect and prepare us. Suffering produces endurance so He not only brings the test that shows you what you know, what you don't know and what you need to know but He won't test you beyond what you are able and He will always make the way of escape as you grow in grace. Endurance then produces character. Circumstances do not determine our character for they reveal it and then become the opportunity to refine it. Then character produces hope.

Philippians 1:6 says [6] *And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.* He is polishing me, purifying me, and preparing me for He is getting everything out in my life that doesn't need to be there so that when people look increasingly they won't see me but they will see Jesus and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out upon us. Whenever you suffer it's not an indicator that God doesn't love you but that's a declaration that He is loving you.

Hebrews 12:7–11 says [7] *It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?* [8] *If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.* [9] *Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?* [10] *For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.* [11] ***For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*** God disciplines those He loves, not only in days of prosperity but days of adversity and with it He makes the way of escape which is Him.

Not only as a Christian are your best days ahead of you, but you never go anywhere that is virgin territory. I Corinthians 10:13 says [13] *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.* Your Savior has been there ahead of you and He is with you. Now we find out how Jesus does this by going to our fifth legacy blessing.

Romans 5:5 says [5] *and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.* The love of God has been poured into our hearts is the fifth legacy blessing and this is baptismal language. How has He poured upon us His love? It is through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

If you go back to Romans 4:24–25 we see that Christ has done the work of our redemption and because He did that He is ascended on high at the right hand of the Father and He intercedes for us. So, He who did the work of redemption is now working on the redeemed. How is He working on the redeemed? He is working on them in love, by pouring out His love upon you through the Holy Spirit. He is at work on you, in you and through you. The chapter on the Holy Spirit is coming for it's in Romans 8 and it's a glorious chapter. We get a little taste of it in Romans 5. Jesus dwells in my heart through the Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks to me through His Word through the Holy Spirit. Christ strengthens me through the Holy Spirit who strengthens me.

Paul does something really interesting here. Whenever he speaks of the ascended Christ sending the Holy Spirit to us, he likes to use the phrase 'the Spirit of Christ' which is Christ's work in us through the Holy Spirit. This Spirit that we now have is the One who fashioned Jesus in the virgin birth so it's the same Spirit that was in Christ and is now given to us from Christ who gave you the new birth. The Bible tells us in Isaiah and Luke that Jesus grew in wisdom, stature, favor with God and favor with man. Isaiah tells us that He did that because the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him. So Jesus' childhood of maturation was under the governorship of the Holy Spirit and that same Holy Spirit that was with Jesus is the same Holy Spirit that brought us from death unto life in a new birth. He now is maturing you that you can grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

When Jesus went to the baptism and took on the final right of the Messiah which meant the priest had to be baptized by another priest and John the Baptist was that priest and prophet that was baptizing Jesus. What happens as the water is poured out upon Him? The Holy Spirit is poured out upon Him. And so you are baptized with the Holy Spirit and sealed by Him. Not only did the Holy Spirit come when we were helpless and hopeless and brought us from death unto life but He is the One guiding us in our pilgrim's progress as we are growing in grace.

Where did the Holy Spirit take Jesus? He took Him out into the wilderness and the same Spirit who was with Jesus will be with us as we are out in the wilderness of this world. The Holy Spirit was with Him in the Galilee as He taught. The Holy Spirit will be with us as we bear witness for Christ in this world. That's why Jesus says in Luke 12:11–12, [11] *“And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, [12] for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*

The book of Romans and Hebrews tells us that the Spirit is the One who ushered Him to the cross. As Jesus goes to the cross to die for our sins so the Holy Spirit will usher you everyday to take up your cross and die daily for Christ so that it is no longer we who live but Christ lives in us. Galatians 2:20 says [20] *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I*

who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Then the Holy Spirit brought Jesus out of the tomb and so the Holy Spirit brings you into the newness of life. II Corinthians 5:17 says *[17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* Not the perfect has come for that won't happen until we get to the new heavens and the new earth. Then Jesus is received up into the Shekinah glory from the Mount of Olives – the clouds of glory – and so the Holy Spirit at the right time bring you home to the new heavens and the new earth. He loses not one of us who are in Christ. That is why the Bible says Christ is with you – because the same Spirit that was with Christ is with you, therefore Christ is with you by the Holy Spirit. So, you have the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

I want to put it simply this way; knowing we are sinners, helpless and hopeless, how are the Gospel legacy blessings confirmed to and confirmed upon those who are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone? It is because the Holy Spirit has come from Christ to you. He has saved you – brought you from death unto life. He has sealed you. He is sanctifying you. He is sending you into this world. He has secured you and you cannot be lost. He will hold you fast. That is what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life.

I am glad to be bringing you to this Table for it brings me back to Romans 4:24–25. Here will be the bread that is His body in which He bore our sins on the cross. Here is the blood He shed as He gave His life for our life that we might be forgiven and clothed in His righteousness that we might have everlasting life from the cross. It's no accident but sovereign wisdom that takes the Lord's Supper with elements that bring you to the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ. After doing the work of redemption, He went to work on the redeemed by His Holy Spirit. He said in Acts 1:8, *[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.* The Holy Spirit will be your strength.

How do you know a Spirit filled church? How do you know a Spirit filled Christian? It is certainly by extraordinary emotional dynamics but it is not by displays. J.I. Packer says the Holy Spirit is the shy Spirit for when He shows up with power no one is talking about Him, they are talking because of Him and they are talking about Jesus. When you receive power, you will be My witnesses. There is the evidence of the Spirit of God.

As you come to this Table you will be brought back to the cross. Think about the fact that you have peace with God because of Christ, if you're in Christ by faith. You have standing with God and you have access to God. You can rejoice that the best is yet to come – blessed assurance. You can even be strengthened to rejoice in your sufferings and it's all because this Savior has poured out His Spirit to save you, seal you, sanctify you, send you and secure you. The Spirit will speak to your hearts and point you to Christ and then take you in His power to lift up Christ in this world. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You so much for the time we could be together in Your Word. Thank You for this glorious text in Romans 5, that brings us to the very foot of the cross even as we celebrate the sacraments that brings us back to the cross, wherein is our redemption. Father, I pray that You would speak to Your people as they take these moments to focus through the Lord's Supper, upon Christ, strength, presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Father, may they sense His presence and as they sense the presence of the Holy Spirit may they be assured that Christ is with

them, is for them, is saving them, is sending them and will secure them all the way home, for in Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

Power Point

Five Gospel Blessings for All Who Are Justified by Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in Christ Alone

- I. Peace with God
- II. Access and standing with God
- III. Rejoice/exult in Hope of glory
- IV. Rejoice/exult in our Sufferings
- V. Presence and power of Holy Spirit

The Presence and Power of the Holy Spirit

Knowing we are sinners helpless and hopeless, how are the Gospel Legacy Blessings conferred to and confirmed upon those who are justified by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone?

The Holy Spirit – The Spirit of Christ

Saves – Seals – Sanctifies – Sends – Secures