

**Your Life in Christ**  
**Romans 5:1-5**  
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**INTRODUCTION**

God's Spirit, through Paul, spent the first four chapters of Romans explaining justification by faith alone; a Christian is a sinner saved by the grace of God only because they have made an informed decision to trust Jesus as Lord of their life and Savior from their sins. But this blessed trust is not the end of the Gospel, it is the beginning.

When you are saved, you enter into a new life and receive blessings beyond count. If you are waiting to trust Christ, if you are not sure of the truth of the Christian world view, I want you to see from this text all that Jesus offers you in saving your soul.

If you have trusted Christ, I wonder if you know and use all that you have in Christ. The Bible says that Jesus is the "Yes!" and "Amen!" to all the promises of God (2 Cor 1:20). Too often we pass our days in ignorance and pettiness because we do not know what we have in Christ.

*Receive God's free gift of righteousness in Jesus, and learn to live your life in the fullness of God!*

**Romans 5:1-2 All we have in Christ**

Paul starts at 5:1 by practically shouting "JUSTIFIED!" as he explains all that we have in Christ. But before we open the treasures of God, we must remember how they came to us: "justified by faith we have peace with God" and Paul is point back to how he ended chapter four, Jesus "was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."

**Vs 1 In Christ, we have justification** (by Jesus' resurrection) **and peace with God** (by Jesus' death and our faith).

Before you were in Christ you were waging a lonely, petty, and pointless war against God. Now, in Christ, you are children of God. He has made peace between God and sinners.

When we work to make peace we follow Jesus' example, as it is written: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God (Matt 5:9)."

But know this, entering into Christ means that you have switched sides in the war that has raged since the first days of the world. Heaven and Hell cannot be reconciled anymore than love and hatred, or truth and lies. Peace with God and the war against Satan's Kingdom of Lies are so tightly linked that James said: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you (4:7)."

Notice that faith, not the Law, has given us peace with God. Jesus did the work of making peace, when we have faith we trust Him and enter into the rest that His work earns. When we follow self-reliance or self-righteousness we reject Jesus' work to make peace and go about trying to make our own peace.

Have you found lasting peace anywhere else? *Enter into the peace of Christ by faith and grow in peace by submitting to God!*

**Vs 2 In Christ, we have access to grace. "By whom also we have access"** He, Jesus, is our access. He is our new and living way, the captain of our souls, and the author and perfecter of our faith. If you are not in Christ, then you have none of this. If you are in Christ, then you have continual access to the holy, eternal throne of God.

**“Wherein we stand”** This statement points out that we stand in Christ through grace, so our access can never be taken from us! “Have access” and “stand” both carry the idea of completed and continuously relevant facts (perfect tense).

*Understand that these are not short term privileges, access to God and good standing in grace are the new and eternal reality for all who are in Christ!*

**Vs 2 In Christ, we have a glorious hope “and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”**

**“Rejoice”** here is the same word as “boast” in 2:17 (“you make your boast of the Law”) and it is also translated as “boast” in Vs 3 below.

There are many things that are wrong to glory or boast in: money, wisdom, might. But there is one thing that it is right to boast in: acceptance by God.

This is a source of great confidence and joy, and it is the Christians' “boast.” But our boast is not it ourselves, rather we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

This boast is a sure and wise boast, it is the only such boast, because it is in God who does not lie or change.

Humankind was made to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. That is the meaning of life.

All beauty on earth, all marvels of human art and science, all joys of relationships, all wonders of discovery, are reflections of the glory of knowing God.

This glorious destiny was wrecked by sin and rebellion, but when you come into Christ, “the hope of the glory of God” is restored for you.

*Forsake self-reliance, self-help, and self-hope! Put your trust in Christ; humble yourself and He will lift you up!*

*Once you have trusted Him:*

*Take advantage of the access that you have by grace to the glory of God!*

*Be a peacemaker, because you were saved by the Peacemaker!*

*Grow in prayer, because you have access!*

*Grow in holy confidence by learning to see all of your problems in the light of your sure hope!*

But what about when things go badly for us, when we lose our wallet, our temper, our job, or our child. Where is our holy confidence then? What good did access to grace and peace with God do for us?

**Romans 5:3-5 And When Things Are Not Going Our Way... We Have Even More!**

The darker the world, the brighter our chance to shine. The more ugly human folly, the greater the beauty of holiness. The blessings that you have in Christ are wonderful, but when your life gets worse, those blessings get even better.

**Vs 3 In Christ and hardship, we have an even more glorious hope.**

Paul even says that he boasts in sufferings because the suffering and struggles of a Christian cause the formation of spiritual virtues that endure forever.

In Christ, tribulation becomes something positively good.

### **Vs 3 In Christ and hardship, a reason for enduring.**

Your temporary suffering has an eternal purpose. When you suffer in battle with sin, under the pressure of the world, in confounding difficulty, or anywhere else, God uses that suffering in your sanctification.

The Christians suffering is redemptive suffering, Christ paid all that needed to be paid to redeem us, but he uses our suffering and sorrow in His progressive work of freeing our souls.

When you suffer, especially when you strive against your flesh, know that your warfare is not a waste. God knows your sorrow, he knows the turmoil of your heart, and whether you win or lose a particular battle with sin, God will use your hard fighting against sin to your good and His glory.

This is not to say that anguish and bitterness is not great in our hearts, it often is! But as powerful as sorrow is, we have a more powerful comfort. Because our Comforter takes every tear, every sleepless night, every painful sigh and uses them to perfect our souls.

*Be comforted in tribulation and draw near to God because by sorrow and the work of God we are passing from sorrow to the glory of God!*

### **Vs 4 In Christ and hardship, we have a path to perfection.**

Tribulation does not normally produce patience, tribulation often wears away patience. But when God is doing the supernatural work of changing a heart, our response to hardship changes.

“experience” has the idea of a proven character, a well-developed person who has been tested and found to be mature. James says something similar about patience (Jas 1:2-4).

### **In Christ: tribulation → patience → experience → a sure hope**

God is using your sufferings to produce a strength of character that will last far, far longer than this trial.

### **Vs 5 In Christ and hardship, we have the love of God in our hearts.**

“**And hope maketh not ashamed;**” A hope that fails causes shame or humiliation. But we know that this hope of the restored glory of God in our lives will not fail because it is already coming to pass...

“**the love of God is shed abroad**” this could be a sense of God's love for us, the working power of that love in us, and also our ever-growing ability to love God back. And this love is not just sprinkled, or lightly applied, it is “shed abroad!” This is a very strong word that means an unrestrained, rich pouring out.

When Judas the traitor hung himself so that his body split and all his entrails fell out, the same word is used. When Paul admits that he helped murder Stephen, he uses the same phrase. This is a powerful, unrestrained outpouring. And When Jesus gives us the Lord's Supper, He says:

“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins (Matt 26:28).”

**Vs 5 In Christ and hardship, we have the Holy Spirit in us.**

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ (Gal 4:6-7).”

God's love is not poured out on our hearts remotely, but by God Himself dwelling in you!

*Forsake hopelessness, bitterness, and hate! Put your trust in Christ and God will pour out His love upon you.*

*Once you have trusted Him: Learn to see hardship in the light of God who works our temporary hardship to our eternal joy!*

*Don't hide from your suffering and sorrow (a Christian does NOT always smile), seek God's will and redemptive purpose for your hardship.*

*When you suffer, don't seek comfort in idols, alcohol, food, or distractions. Come to God who is already in your heart and seek the pouring out of His love.*

**CONCLUSION**

**Romans 5:1-5 And, riches beyond riches and grace beyond grace, the fullness of the Trinity in our lives.**

To be saved is not just to be loved by Jesus. The saved enter into a powerful, living relationship with each Person of the Trinity. Trusting Jesus, you can live your life in the fullness of God, because the fullness of God work in, with, and through all who trust Jesus. This passage shows us that we have:

**Vs 1** Jesus our Lord who guides and protects, **Vs 2** God the Father as our hope and shield,

**Vs 5** The Holy Spirit is given to us and pouring out the Love of God in us

*Such remarkable promises at least deserve to be investigated seriously! If you are not trusting in Jesus, study the Word, spend time with consistent and thoughtful Christians, see if these things are so!*

*Once you trust Christ, remember you have the fullness of the Holy Trinity working in and though you, so learn to live in the fullness of God!*

*Receive God's free gift of righteousness in Jesus, and learn to live your life in the fullness of God!*