

Sunday, January 6, 2013—The Things Freely Given Us of God—Peace With God, Without Blame, No Condemnation

Introduction

- The past two studies in our series The Things Freely Given Us of God have been about justification and glorification out of Romans 8:30. Last we saw how because we have been justified we have also been glorified.
- This week we want to consider so further results of our justification. In other words, what else has the believer been freely given because we have God's very righteousness imputed to our account?
- This week we want to consider the following aspects of the things freely given us of God:
 - Peace with God
 - Without blame
 - No condemnation

Peace With God

- Romans 5:1—notice the first word, “therefore.” Paul is making an argument here. He is saying that because we have been justified by faith and declared righteous by almighty God the believer enjoys peace with God. Notice carefully the following language in the verse.
 - “Therefore **being justified** by faith”—past tense, the believer is already in a state of being. The state of being the believers are in is the state of being justified. In words, we have already been justified.
 - “we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”—because we have already been justified we now or presently have (own or possess) peace with God.
- According to *Strong's Concordance* the Greek word translated peace carries the following meanings:
 - 1) a state of national tranquillity
 - a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war
 - 2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord
 - 3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)
 - 4) of the Messiah's peace
 - a) the way that leads to peace (salvation)
 - 5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is
 - 6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death

- The 7th definition of peace offered by the *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* is Harmony; concord; a state of reconciliation between parties at variance. This is the best definition of what Paul is talking about in Romans 5:1.
- Romans 1:16-18—as Paul begins to make his great argument about the gospel of Christ the first thing he declares in verse 18 is that the wrath of God is revealed from heaven. To have God wrath abiding upon you is the exact opposite of enjoying the peace of God.
- Romans 1:32—the corrupted and twisted mind of unsaved man takes pleasure in the very things that incur the judgment and wrath of almighty God.
- Romans 2:1-16—mankind in his nature state is prime candidate for the wrath of God. Paul paints a nasty picture of what awaits the soul of the justified sinner: judgment, indication, wrath, tribulation, and anguish.
- Romans 3:23-28—since we are all sinners by nature we are all under the wrath of God. However, God has made a provision through Jesus Christ to redeem and justify those who believe Christ died on the cross and shed his blood for their sins.
- Romans 4:25—Jesus Christ was delivered to the cross for our offences and was raised from dead for our justification.
- Romans 5:1—so anyone who has by faith believed the truths of Romans 3 and 4 is in a state of being justified. It is because we have been justified that we enjoy peace with God. This is a total reversal of what our relationship with God looked like when the book of Romans started. Just as the definition of peace suggests, believers are in harmony and concord with God. There has been a reconciliation between two parties that used be at variance.
- Peace with God means that God has nothing against us. This involves: 1) That God has fully judged sin, upon Christ, our Substitute, 2) That God was so wholly stratified with Christ's sacrifice, that He will eternally remain so: never taking up the judgment of our sin again. 3) That God is therefore at rest about us forever, however, poor our understanding of truth, however weak our walk. God is looking at the blood of Christ, and not at our sins. All claims against us were met when Christ “made peace by the blood of his cross.” (Newell)
 - Romans 5:10
 - II Corinthians 5:18-20—today during the dispensation of grace God is in the reconciliation business.
 - Colossians 1:2
- Philippians 4:5-9—the peace of God is not just something we positionally enjoy it is designed to be an active force in the life of the believer.

Without Blame

- Ephesians 1:3-4—one of the spiritual blessings that we have in Jesus Christ is that we are without blame before him in love. The Greek word translated “without blame” means 1) without blemish a) as a sacrifice without spot or blemish, 2) morally: without blemish, faultless, unblameable.

- Blameless—without fault; innocent; guiltless; not meriting censure.
- Believers have been given a position of complete blamelessness before the God of the universe. The same words that are used to describe Christ as used to describe you and I as members of the body of Christ.
 - Numbers 28:3, 9, 11, 17
 - Hebrews 9:14—“without spot”
 - I Peter 1:19—“without blemish and without spot”
 - Ephesians 5:27—“holy and without blame”
 - Colossians 1:22—“holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight”
- Romans 8:33—who shall lay any blame upon that which God has declared blameless? No one is able to lay anything to the charge of someone whom God has already declared to be without blame.

No Condemnation

- Romans 8:34—likewise no one is able to condemn someone that is without blame.
- Romans 8:1—there is no condemnation or damnatory sentence that can be conferred upon believers because we have peace with God and are holy and without blame before him in love.
 - Romans 5:16-18
- Romans 8:34—the reason there is no condemnation is because of the work of Christ on our behalf. Notice how complete our peace with God is. Instead of being God’s enemy Jesus Christ now actively making intercession for us before God almighty.
- Read passage from Darby page 172.
- Read passage from Tucker page 77-79

Conclusion

- God is not out to get you. As believers we are at peace with God. God does not send tribulation and calamity upon us those things happen because we live in a sin cursed world or as the natural consequences of our bad decisions.
- Rather than seeking to find what God is trying to teach us through the circumstances of our lives we ought to go live the truth of who God has made us in Jesus Christ regardless of life’s challenges. We need to live our lives with the confidence of knowing that we have peace with God, we are without blame before God almighty, and that we cannot be condemned.