

Sermon Series: Book of Romans
Sermon title: "Peace"
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
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Opening illustration:

"December 1944: in the final months of World War Two, a Japanese lieutenant named Hiroo Onoda was stationed on Lubang, a tiny island in the Philippines.

Within weeks of his arrival, a US attack forced Japanese combatants into the jungle - but unlike most of his comrades, Onoda remained hidden on the island for nearly 30 years.

Leaflets that were dropped on Lubang to inform stragglers of Japan's surrender on 15 August 1945, were dismissed as fakes, by Onoda and the three remaining servicemen who stood by him. They remained hidden in the wilderness among stinging ants and snakes, living on a diet of banana skins, coconuts and rice, convinced that the enemy was trying to starve them out.

The Japanese government declared him dead in 1959, but in reality, he was alive - committed to a secret mission that had instructed him to hold the island until the imperial army's return. He was convinced the whole time that the war had never ended." [BBC]

A peace had been declared but Onoda could not accept it. If only he had known the truth, he could have lived 30 years in peace instead of continuing to fight the enemy.

Well, the Bible tells us that human beings, in one sense, are at war with God. Peace is available but many refuse to surrender to God because they don't believe that peace is really available.

Let's pray.

We've been in Romans for a while and although today is the first Sunday in Advent or 'the Christmas season', I decided to slow down a bit and stay in Romans 5 till the New Year.

Let's look at our verses for the day.

Romans 5:1-11

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. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

What we have seen so far in Romans is pretty simple.

- All people....Jews and non-Jews alike are under sin, rejected God and given in to idolatry and immorality.

- We have no righteousness of our own and God requires righteousness.
- We have a problem. We are all enemies of God, separated from God and we have no way to be right with God.
- But God has made a way for us to be right with him.
- Jesus Christ the righteous God Man died on the cross to take our sin from us and give us his righteousness.

There is a major shift when we come to Romans 5. The focus is no longer the way in which we are justified by grace through faith but the benefits that we now experience because we are justified by God.

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is the first benefit mentioned. **PEACE.**
Peace with God. (Not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture)

Therefore....points us to all that has come before in **chapters 1-4**. And Paul tells us plainly what that is in a nutshell...since we have been justified by faith....that's what he wanted us all to see in the previous chapters.

And Paul also starts using 'we' and 'us' where he didn't really do that before.

Paul himself is included in the justified by faith.

Past tense...."We have been justified (legally declared right by God through our faith in Jesus Christ)...

WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD.

What a beautiful statement. PEACE WITH GOD.

Not peace through God.

Not peace in God.

But PEACE WITH GOD.

This peace is not peace in our hearts or a feeling but the opposite of conflict or war.

Let's tackle some simple questions.

I. Why do we need peace with God?

II. What does it mean to have peace with God?

III. How do we get peace with God?

I. Why do we need peace with God?

Quite simply because we have been at war with God.

We have been against him.

We have been fighting him.

Romans 5:9-10 makes it clear.

9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

God's wrath is not a good thing.

Being an enemy of God isn't a good thing.

We need peace with God.

This is what we've been seeing in chapters 1-4, that we are in need of peace or reconciliation.

We couldn't make things right.

II. What does it mean to have peace with God?

It means that the conflict is gone forever.

It means reconciliation.

In these verses, peace is one bookend on the front end and reconciliation is the other bookend in the back.

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord

Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Have you ever gotten in a big fight with your wife. I know I sure have. It was all my fault I am sure.

Early in our marriage, Amber and I got into a big fight about ordering at the drive thru window. I ordered quickly and she needed time. I felt pressure from the cars behind us and we got into a big fight. All this happened on the way to a marriage conference!

It felt terrible to be at odds with her.

And boy it felt so wonderful to reconcile and forgive.

That's what Christ did for us....he provided a way for us to have peace with God and to be reconciled.

"Peace is more than just the absence of conflict, it is the result of having been declared righteous by faith"...forever. (Faithlife Study Bible)

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling

the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Ephesians 2:13-18

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Colossians 1:15-22

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

I. Why do we need peace with God? Because we have been fighting him our whole lives.

II. What does it mean to have peace with God? It means reconciliation. It means the relationship is right and good and harmonious forever.

III. How do we get peace with God?

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Timothy 2:5-6

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all,

Peace with God is available only through the one mediator...the only arbitrator, arbiter, negotiator, conciliator, go-between, middleman, moderator, interceder, intercessor, reconciler, broker, liaison, peacemaker....Jesus Christ who gave his life as a ransom payment.

Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Romans 1:7

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:33

May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,
21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Let me ask you a question.

Are you fighting God?

The Bible calls you to surrender.

The terms of peace have been laid out.

You surrender, come out of the jungle of sin and become a servant in his kingdom and he will give you eternal life.

Christian.

Do you need to be reminded that you have peace with God?

There may be someone here who although you believe in Jesus, you are still trying to impress him with your works...still trying to get him to love you.

There is nothing you can do.

He won't love you any more than he already does.

You have peace with God through Jesus because you are united with Christ.

Rest Christian.

Believe this truth.

And be at peace.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

24 The Lord bless you and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.