

Sermon Series: Book of Romans  
Sermon title: "Grace in which we stand"  
Scripture Reading: Romans 5:2  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
December 4, 2022  
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**Opening illustration:**

King David reigned in Israel about 1000 BC. After he became king he showed great kindness to the house of Saul, his predecessor.

He said, *"Is there anyone left in the house of Saul that I can show kindness to?"* The servant said, *"There is still a son of Jonathan: he is crippled in his feet."* His name was Mephibosheth. He was living in a place called Lo-Debar, which means 'no pasture'.

They brought him to David and David said to him, *"I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan (who was David's best friend) and I will restore to you all the land of Saul your [grand] father, and you shall eat at my table always."*

David had the servants of Saul's house work the fiends and take care of all the land while Mephibosheth got

to dwell in Jerusalem, the King's city, and eat daily at King David's table.

Wow. What a gift!

David, out of sheer grace, brought Mephibosheth from a place of 'no pasture' into the king's palace to live and eat from his table all his days. He didn't earn it. It was all by grace.

This is a picture of what God does for us through Jesus Christ. He brings us poor lame sinners from the place of sin to the place of grace.

**Let's pray.**

### **Romans 5:1-5**

**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.

We saw last week that we can have PEACE WITH GOD through Jesus Christ. That's really good news! We are against God and opposed to God but through Jesus we can be reconciled to God and be at peace with him.

That's one of the benefits that comes to us who believe in Jesus Christ. Peace with God. **Romans 5:1**

In **verse 2** today we see another benefit.

**2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,

What we are going to do today is simply look at this glorious statement by Paul and try to see what he means.

Here's the main idea:

**Through Jesus Christ, Christians have been ushered from the realm of sin to the realm of grace.**

First, we see that it is 'through him', that is Jesus Christ from the last verse.

Peace with God is through Jesus Christ and through him we have **ALSO**....something else.

What do we have?

**2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,

We have 'obtained access'.

This word access means 'the act of bring to' or 'introduce'.

Think of old England if you like in the 1600's or 1700's where someone could not just talk to someone out of their social class unless they were formally introduced to them.

Or think of the time that a young boy wanted to see Queen Elizabeth and was upset because a Beefeater would not let him into Buckingham Palace. A 20 year old Prince Charles saw it happen and went down to the boy and said in a sense, "It's ok. I will take you in with me."

That's similar to the Greek usage.

Some Greek writings use it as being ushered into the presence of a king or queen, like Esther being allowed into the King's throne room. You cannot go into the presence of the King unless allowed for fear of death. Not just anyone can stand in the presence of a King.

But the 2 other uses of this word in the Bible are in the context of the temple.

Ephesians 2:13-21 & Ephesians 3:11-12

I'll read **Ephesians 2:13-21**

**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. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the

foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

So what Paul means in **Romans 5:2** and **Ephesians 2** is that through Jesus Christ we have obtained access into the holy of holies.

The curtain of the temple that blocked access has been torn down and now those who believe by faith, have peace with God and more than that....they have access to God.

Jesus always had access. He introduced us...he ushered us in....he brought us to that place.

As **1 Peter 3:18** says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might **BRING** us to God. "

So, Paul says we have peace with God through Jesus Christ and we have obtained access....but though he means 'access to God' he instead uses another phrase.

**2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand,

By the way, “by faith” is not in the Greek in some manuscripts. It is likely inferred from the previous sentence.

What does Paul mean when he says, **2** [Through him we have also obtained access \[by faith\] into this grace in which we stand,](#)

[“Access into this grace.”](#)

Grace here is likened to a place or a realm that we now dwell in.

It’s not just that we are [“justified by his grace as a gift” Romans 3:24](#)...meaning..‘saving grace’.

But grace as it is described here is something that we remain in. We don’t leave there. We don’t go back and forth or in and out of there. We belong there now. We even stand there.

I think [Christopher Ash](#) says it well when he says, **“We have gone through a door, from the realm where sin enslaves (under sin) to the realm where grace rules.”**

[John MacArthur](#) says that now, **“We breathe the air of grace.”**

I think in many ways, we can't grasp this concept because it is too wonderful for us to accept that God would be this gracious to us.

Spiritually, we are Mephibosheth...we are lame and live in a desolate place and the King shows us unmerited favor through Jesus Christ and gives us a seat at his table.

**2** Through him we have also obtained access [into this grace in which we stand,](#)

What does he mean by [this grace in which we STAND?](#)

Stand here means to abide in, to live there, permanently.

Standing is the opposite of what? Falling.

I believe what we are supposed to see here is security.

### **Romans 8:38**

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come nor powers not height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



For those who are in Christ, we stand in grace.  
We are in the realm of grace.

John Courson said, **“We can plant ourselves in the presence of God and enjoy him as long as we want, anytime we wish.”**

### **Hebrews 4:16**

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Through Jesus Christ, Christians have been ushered from the realm of sin to the realm of grace.**

### **Application:**

If you're not a Christian today, I have good news for you. You can have peace with God today through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ calls you to leave the realm of sin and by his gracious gift...enter the realm of grace and stay there forever.

Jesus paid the price on the cross for your sin.  
There is now access to God and his grace.  
He calls you to believe.

Christian, what do we need to take home from this text?

**2** Through him we have also obtained access into this grace in which we stand,

I think one application is for us to remember that we live in the realm of grace. You are not condemned. Your past doesn't define you. You are not under sin but under grace.

Maybe you've messed up recently. You may feel like you're not very good at this Christian thing and ready to just throw in the towel and go back to your old ways.

Stand in grace. Dust yourself off. Confess your sins to the Lord and keep going. The devil would like you to give up. Don't believe the lies. You are under grace. Jesus already died for your sins. They are paid for. Keep going. Stand firm in grace.

Some of you may need to repent today of sin. We will take the Lord's Supper in a moment. Confess your sins to the Lord and turn away from sin.

**Romans 6** says, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"