

## Peace with God

### Introduction and Review

- Last week we looked at Abraham as a model of faith (4:18-21).
- We observed that the basis of his faith was: the promise of God & the power of God (4:21).
- We also observed that Abraham believed the promise & power of God in spite of his natural weaknesses & Sarah's natural weaknesses – he did not waiver (4:18-20).
- Today we will see that peace & joy is a result of this faith.

### I. Peace with God (v. 1)

#### A. Justification

*Justification is a divine act of God where He declares a sinner righteous & acceptable because of faith in Jesus (4:24b-25). Justification is a legal term where the accused is declared not guilty by the Judge. "...since we have been"*

#### B. Peace

*Peace with God is not a subjective feeling, but it is an objective fact that the justified person is no longer an enemy of God (5:10a). Peace with God removes the dreadful fear of condemnation for sin in this life & at Judgment. This peace is secured only through faith in Jesus...*

**APPL:** Every believer here today has been justified by faith & you are no longer an enemy of God, but a child of God = PEACE!

### II. Joy in Future Glory (v. 2)

#### A. Access to God

*Direct access or introduction to God was unthinkable in the OT - the fear of death. However the death of Christ removes this fear of death & graciously provides a believer special access to God (Heb. 4:16; 10:19-22). Access to God & his grace gives confidence of victory in life & death.*

#### B. Glorious eternal future

*Every believer has a glorious eternal future with Christ (Rom. 8:29-30). Every believer will have a glorified body in a new heaven & earth – purity, perfection, excellence; *no more tears, misery, pain, sickness, death, confusion, etc.* This expectation brings real joy!*

**APPL:** Every believer here today has direct access to God in prayer & praise and a glorious future in eternity by faith in Jesus. This is a reason for our joy & rejoicing! Even though we rejoice about our glorious future, we have to handle difficulties of life NOW!

### III. Joy in Present Suffering (v. 3-5)

#### A. Know the outcome (3-5a)

*The believer can have joy in sufferings because he/she knows that sufferings produce a godly result. Endurance (ὕπομονή) is the capacity to withstand difficulties & not give up (v. 3b). Character (δοκιμή) means genuineness that is determined by testing (v. 4a) – *the proven character of God is revealed in the believer thru sufferings.* Hope (ἐλπίς) looking forward to something good with confidence (v. 4b). This hope in God for the ultimate results of suffering will never lead to regrets for trusting God (v. 5a). **Enduring trials without ungodly compromise gives hope to the believer that God has been & will continue to be faithful!***

#### B. Motivated by love (v. 5b)

*God has already demonstrated His love for sinners (Jn. 3:16; 1Jn. 4:19). The love of God motivates believers to obedience & joy in suffering (Jn. 14:15). *We do the will of God with joy regardless of the consequences because we love Him!**

## CONCLUSION

My beloved brothers & sisters we all should be thankful that we have been justified – our sins have been forgiven & God has accepted us as His children. This means that as we sit here today, we are at peace with God (no fear of condemnation), we have direct access to God in prayer & praise, & we have a glorious eternal future with God. And we can face every difficulty in our private lives & ministry with joy knowing that God is working in all situations for our good – to produce perseverance in us, proven godly character in us & the certainty of hope that God is faithful to carry out His will in our lives. We love God because He first loved us; we serve God because He first loved us & now we love Jesus. And we love each other because God first loved us. This is the life of Christian. This is most blessed on earth. Will you contemplate these truths & resolve to handle the difficult circumstances in your life with less complaining & worry and with lot more prayer & joy? Where is your joy in times of trouble?

If you are not a Christian, then you have not been justified yet and you are not at peace with God today? You are still an enemy of God & in serious danger of being punished for your sins. If only you would trust Jesus today; if only you would believe in Him today, you could have your sins forgiven & be at peace with God...

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