

## You Can Be Free

Romans 5:1-5

**Romans 5:1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith***

### I. Justification – You are guilty, you can be declared innocent.

*Romans 3:23-26 ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

#### A. God is Judge; You are Guilty

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* All have sinned. This is the message of the Bible. This is the purpose of the law. Some people don't think they are all that bad. God gave us the law to help us understand how sinful we are. Have you ever told a lie? Ever cheated on a test? Ever cheated on your taxes? Ever stolen anything? Ever copied on a test? Ever wanted something someone else had? Ever lusted? Ever hated anyone? Ever put something before God? We have not even gotten through all the Ten Commandments and you can see that you are guilty. **If you don't think you have sinned, then you cannot be saved.**

For you to be declared innocent, you have to admit you are guilty.

God is the judge. He has declared you guilty.

#### B. God is Judge: He is Just

*Romans 3:25b This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.*

A just judge does not let people get away with breaking the law. If a judge let lawbreakers get by without any punishment all the time – what would happen? Crime would increase – chaos would ensue. A just judge punishes a lawbreaker -- that is his responsibility.

If God is just He must punish sin. But Romans 3:25 says "*because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed.*" How can a just God pass over or overlook sins previously committed? How does this demonstrate His righteousness? **Look at verse 24:**

*Romans 3:24-25a being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.*

Jesus went to the cross to pay for your sin. Your sins were punished. Jesus took the penalty for your sin on the cross. **If you believe Him, trust Him, follow Him by faith, and surrender to Him then His death pays for your sin.**

### **C. God is Judge: He is just and He is the Justifier**

Romans 3:26 *for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

God is just. He required punishment for sin. God is the justifier. Jesus took your punishment and died in your place. So God, a just Judge sees your guilt. Then He looks at your heart to see whether or not you have put your faith in Jesus – and if you have – then He declares you innocent. **When you surrender to Jesus, God accepts Jesus' payment for your sin.** God is *the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

If you do not trust Jesus, surrender to Him and follow Him, **then you will pay the penalty for your sins** when you die and you will be sentenced to eternity in hell.

The Penalty must be paid. Jesus paid the penalty or you will pay the penalty.

It is not that God overlooked your sin. Jesus paid for your sin.

It is not that you were innocent. God declared you guilty. There had to be a sentence. You were sentenced to death. Jesus died in your place.

So even though you are guilty, God declared you innocent. That is justification.

You are guilty, but your sentence has been paid and your record cleared.

See I John 1:9

You have a new status before God. You have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of His beloved Son.

Justification is the beginning, the foundation – what is next?

Romans 5:1-2 ***Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand;***

### **II. Peace – When you are saved, you have peace with God**

You don't have to earn it – ever. God's grace is continually poured out on you. You have moved into a new place. You were an enemy of God, now you are His friend. You were guilty, now you are innocent. You were in darkness, now you walk in the light. You were spiritually dead, now you have eternal life. You are given a new identity – child of God. You are given a new mission – to live for Him. The Kingdom of God is a spiritual reality – you can see the world through new eyes.

You have peace with God. He is for you. He wants to help you. Whatever He does in your life is an act of love. If He gives to you, it is an act of love. If he withholds from you, it is an act of love.

**Your status has changed. Your location has not.** This causes problems. You are still tempted to live the old way. You live in the midst of a broken world. But now you have help you did not have before. You have a new foundation. You have a new place to stand. You are now living in the grace of God. You have peace with God and you can experience the peace of God.

### **III. There is great freedom in the will of God**

**Romans 5:2b *we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand;***

This is a picture of a large field – the whole field is the will of God. There is freedom to roam within the grace of God. You have freedom to choose. You have freedom to move about. The will of God is not always a very narrow path. (The way to salvation is narrow – only Jesus, but once you are saved there is great freedom). You must still follow God, but there is freedom. There is freedom to try something new for God. There is freedom to use your gifts. There is freedom from worry, fear, and doubt.

**But there is not freedom to sin.**

You are free to live for God. You are free to follow God. You are free from the opinions of others. If you won't follow God because you are afraid of what others think, that is your fault. It does not matter what others think. You are a child of God. Don't allow the words of the ungodly to have any power in your life.

You are free to try something for God and fail. Don't be foolish, but don't be afraid to try and don't quit when you fail. This being on TV is an eye opener for me. I notice every time I stutter. I know every time I lose my train of thought, but don't want to look at my notes. My eyes don't work together so even though I'm looking at the camera it looks like I'm looking somewhere else. I am made for radio and living in a video world. It is not going to make me stop preaching. If God can use me, He can use you!

I want you to live with great freedom. You are free from the punishment of sin – feel the release of guilt. You are free to use your gifts and live out the dreams God puts in your heart. There is room to grow, there is room to fail, and there is room to bounce back in the will of God. Be free and live for Him!

### **IV. This new life in Christ is not free from tribulation.**

Tribulation is part of the life of the believer. This new place to stand is not free from tribulation. There is room for tribulation in the will of God.

*Romans 5:3-5 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

We live our lives trying to avoid tribulation and sometimes God allows it for our good. We live our lives trying to avoid pain, but a life without pain is dangerous.

Paul Brand tells the story of a man who lost feeling in his hands. Paul was in a village speaking to a lady cooking a sweet potato over the fire. She had it on a stick like we do with a marshmallow. When the potato got done it fell into the fire. She tried to skewer it with the stick several times, but kept pushing the potato deeper into the coals. Eventually she looked at the man and nodded. He reached into the fire, pushed away the coals and picked up the

potato. It happened before Paul Brand could react. He rushed to look at the man's hand and they were swollen, bleeding and infected. He could not feel pain so he abused his hands.

Another time Dr. Brand saw man put aside his crutches and run on a broken ankle. He had no sense of pain in his legs. The end of the man's tibia dug into the ground every time he took a step. Paul Brand examined the man's leg and saw sticks and rocks buried in the bone down to the marrow.

Paul Brand said, "One eventually lost his hand, the other his leg; they had in common an utter non-chalance toward self-destruction." [The Gift of Pain, Brand & Yancey, p. 7]

We live in a world so consumed by sin that we are in danger of becoming immune to the pain of sin. Many have so seared their conscience that they sin without pain. They are guilty of sin and they are unaware or they do not care or they scoff at the concept of sin and answering to a holy God. A life of sin leads to an eternity in hell. They have an utter non-chalance toward self-destruction.

Tribulation that comes through sin can be a wake up call so you won't destroy yourself.

Tribulation is a reminder that we need God more than anything else.

Tribulation makes us long for heaven.

1. You can be free from the penalty of sin and have peace with God.
2. There is great freedom in the will of God.
3. Tribulation is part of the Christian life – learn from it.

Does God have your full attention? Are you fully surrendered to Him?

Is there something God is calling you to give up?

Is there something God is calling you to do?

God loves you. God wants what is best for you. Run to Him. Follow Him.

Dear Lord,

We are guilty of sin. We deserve judgment and punishment. You graciously came and died in our place so our sins could be forgiven. Help us to live for you. Help us to rest in the peace that we have with you. Help us to know the freedom of Your will for our lives. Help us not to run away from tribulation, but to learn from it and allow it to move us closer to you. Pour Your Spirit out on us and remind us of Your blessings in our lives. Help us to not be selfish, but to love others the way You love us. In Jesus' name, Amen.