

Sunday, Sept.13, 2009

Living Hope EFC

Art Smith

So...what's different, now that we're justified by faith? Rom.5:1-2, Part 2.

ILLUS: Livingston & African Chief's Son

David Livingston spent a year or two with a certain tribe in s. Africa, then went into the interior to preach to another tribe.

After a while he returned to the first tribe, only to find they had been attacked by a neighboring tribe who had killed many of their men, and had captured the chief's son.

Now, an embassy from the invading tribe had come asking for friendship and peace, because they feared eminent attack from the Zulus. The Chief of the injured tribe, who desired to be at peace with his neighbors, said to Livingston, "How can I be at peace with them while they hold my son prisoner?" -Barnhouse, 25

Peace between 2 enemies cannot come if one dishonors the other's son.

HOW MUCH MORE so...peace between God and man?

- **"This is My beloved Son, listen to Him."**
- He who does not honor the Son, does not honor the Father, **Jn.5:23**
- **God's Gospel for mankind is the Good News about His Son.**
- Rom.5:1 – Peace with God comes through honoring the Son.

Rom.5:1-8:39 – To all those who have been justified (declared righteous) **by faith in Christ**, God **NOW** distributes the benefits of His abundant provision of grace, immediately and eternally, which are His means for the believer's radical transformation both for eternity & for his daily living

In Romans 5 Paul begins to unveil "**the riches of God's grace.**"

- The WEALTH of the Christian! What happened when we believed!
- What's the difference **NOW** THAT WE ARE JUSTIFIED?

The "riches of His Grace" represent all that God can do to satisfy His own infinite love for the sinner. To the end that infinite love can be gratified, He accomplishes infinite transformations. – Chafer, 227

Chap.1-4 = How to become God's child. Birth! Salvation.

Chap.5-116 = How to live as God's child. Maturity! Sanctification.

Benefit 1: We have peace with God!

Peace with God. Not an emotion, but a **change in relationship** based on Christ's payment for our sin. **GOD is at peace – with us!**

- We were once enemies (1:18), at war, but no more: - **Rom.5:10.**
- **Friendship with the Son = friendship with the Father.**

POINT: Because of a real moment in time when Christ died for our sins, & another moment in time when we accepted Christ as our Savior – we were declared righteous & are now restored to God's purpose **Rev.21:3,4**

- **ILLUS:** Just as at a **wedding**, there is a moment that we enter into a new contractual agreement in marriage, so – in a moment we enter into our relationship with Christ & pass from death into life! **Jn.5:24**
- **Conversely**, to not accept the Son is to remain at war with God!
- **In that moment our history changes from Rom.1 to Rom.5:1.**
- Because we are at peace with God over our guilt, we can now have the peace of God in our hearts. We are NOT enemies, BUT friends.

Benefit 2: Gained access into grace as our new standing with God

Vs.2 – We have gained/ **obtained access** to this grace...(perf.ind.)

- Grace is NOW our new standing, granted by the Father thru the Son
- Grace means: favor, kindness, goodwill – in infinite measures.
- **Eph.3:7-12; 2:6—8a; 1:7-8. Rom.6:14; 5:17,21. NOW UNDER GRACE**
- While salvation has a future tense, Paul refers to our **present reality**.
- Just as we begin our relationship with God by a moment of faith, we are to live in our present reality by that same faith: **Rom.1:17.**

"BUT...I don't feel righteous."

Our tendency - when sin comes into our lives - is to think God has changed His attitude toward us or we haven't fully entered His grace.

- **We must not confuse the "presence" of sin in us, with the "penalty" and "power" of sin – which God says have been remedied.**
- God's eyes are ever on His Son's work, not our relative goodness.
- No one is ever saved, nor kept saved - because of positive feelings.

PAUL SAYS – We have peace with God, and this is a present reality!

We stand justified in the very presence of the infinite God Himself!

Dr. Lewis Chafer: In his volume on Soteriology (Pub.1948) lists 33 divine accomplishments instantaneously, simultaneously & eternally accomplished for every believer –the moment he believes. A person cannot be "partially" saved.

Redeemed. Reconciled. Sins atoned. In God's eternal plan (chosen before the world began). Forgiven all sins. United to Christ, his old man crucified, given resurrection life. Freed from law. Child of God. Adopted by God. Acceptable in Christ. Justified. Delivered from the power of darkness. Translated from K'dom of darkness to K'dom of His Son. Made a royal priesthood. Citizenship in heaven. In the family and household of God. United to the Body of Christ. Joint heirs with Christ.

Access to God. Seated in heavenly places. Part of the Bride of Christ. At peace with God. Has an eternal inheritance. Made light to the world. United in spirit to the Father, Son and H.S. Indwelt & sealed with the Holy Spirit. Glorified. Complete in Christ. Possess every spiritual blessing. Given eternal life.

Seven Features of God's Divine Undertakings that aid our understanding and appropriation of them:

- Lewis Sperry Chafer: *Soteriology*, 232-34

1: They are not experienced (by our five senses).

This is not to imply that these riches are not real; it is rather to point out that they do not manifest their reality to the *emotional nature* or through the medium of the *nervous system*.

Example: Justification. It is not felt. There is no sensation, which gives corroborative evidence that the believer is justified; it rests wholly on the testimony of God. So, likewise, it is with all these riches. They are not such as *human experience* can identify.

POINT: We must BELIEVE – moment-by-moment Gods testimony!

2. They are not progressive.

Since it is the way of almost every human experience, it is natural to conclude that whatever God may undertake will begin with immaturity and progress by degrees to eventual completion. However...every divine undertaking is *instantly wrought to that degree of infinite perfection* which it will exhibit in the eternal ages to come.

Example: Sonship. A child is as much a son at birth as he is at any subsequent point in his existence. Thus it is with every divine accomplishment that enters into the immediate salvation of man.

- God always speaks of us as present possessors. – **Col.2:9,10**
- We are not on probation. Grace is not given "partially."

3. They are not related to human merit.

Foreign to all human experience, God sees the believer to be – as he really is – a member in the Body of Christ, and therefore suitable to be blessed with all spiritual blessings *in Christ*. Whatever is accorded the Son of God will be accorded a member in His Body. It is thus that **these riches of grace are built solely on the merit of the Son of God**, and, for that reason, are as abiding as the merit of which they rest.

4. They are eternal in their character.

The work of God for the believer is based on the enduring perfection of Christ and is not, therefore, subject to the variations which characterize a vacillating human experience.

Example: Imputed Righteousness. No trace of human worthiness can be included, but, as with every work of God, it is divinely sustained and consequently eternal in its nature. The gift of *eternal life* is of that divine nature which has existed from all eternity and will exist forever.

5. They are known only by Revelation.

Human imagination and speculation can serve to no degree in attaining to the knowledge of all that God achieves when His love is released by the death of His Son and by the faith of the sinner. Their knowledge-surpassing blessedness can be approached only as they are considered one by one in the light of all that God has declared respecting them.

- **ILLUS:** Christianity is sometimes criticized because of its emphasis on prepositional truth. The other day on the radio (NPR) a lady was interviewing a Yoga instructor. Her comment

was "Western Christianity tends to be an intellectual religion, and not focused on the body enough."

- Question: Where does God put the focus? **Rom.12:1-2. 2 Cor.4:16**
- Our minds must understand Revelation, before we will offer our body
- "We must know what God has done for us, before we can do – what He asks of us."

6. They are accomplished by God alone.

By their very nature, the riches of grace are of necessity the work of God for man. Who could so save himself that he will be on a peace footing with God forever, and eternally justified? Who can translate himself out of the power of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God? Who can constitute himself a citizen of heaven, or write down his name there? *God alone is able to save*, according to those marvels, which He declares are the portion of all who put their trust in Him.

7. They are not accomplished by man.

One who is a sinner can take no step in the direction of his own redemption. He who is on earth can devise nothing for himself in heaven. He who is of time cannot design & execute for eternity. Salvation is more than the continued existence of a good man; it provides the most *radical transformations*, the acquiring of infinite possessions, & the entering into positions, which are in the sphere of heaven & of God.

SUMMARY: Salvation by Grace brings the believer into divine realities of blessing given **instantaneously & simultaneously** at spiritual birth, & that can **never change**, because all rests upon the value and incorruptibility of Christ's redemptive work. [The Son brings us into the presence of God.](#)

RESULT: And while many of these benefits are not experienced with our senses – they never the less take place as sovereign works of God.

- Yet as FAITH grasps & believes them, they do become experienced in our lives. "[Faith is always the bridge over which divine forces move to construct that Christian experience, which conforms to the Word.](#)"
- Faith inherits the promises of God! **Rom.15:13.**

ILLUS: Tad Lincoln - *Barnhouse*, 39

A **Southern soldier** who had been freed from prison camp because he was badly wounded was seeking access to the President to intercede for his brother who was also in prison camp & the sole support of his mother

The soldiers on guard at the White House would not let this Southerner in. One day as little Tad Lincoln, the President's son, was walking near the White House, he happened to see the crippled soldier sitting on a bench crying. The boy asked what the matter was. The man explained that he wanted to see Mr. Lincoln to tell about his brother and mother, but the soldiers wouldn't let him in.

[Tad took the man by the hand and led him past the guards into the presence of his father.](#)

- **Rom.5:1-2 Christ has brought us into His Father's house, to live forever and enjoy His presence. Have you thanked him?**