

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

After the introductory prologue, Paul in Romans systematically shows that all are under the condemnation of sin. “There is none righteous, no not one” (Rom. 3:10). Paul then shows that God has provided a way for people to be right with Him through Jesus Who has provided redemption (deliverance from sin) and become a propitiation (a satisfactory appeasement of God’s wrath) for all who believe in Him.

Paul emphasizes that justification is by faith alone in Rom. 3:21-33 and then in chapter 4 illustrates this from the life of Abraham. And then at the end of Romans 4 Paul applies the truth of justification by faith alone to the believer’s faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are saved just by faith – just like Abraham. The nature of saving faith is the same in all eras which is why Abraham is called the “**father of all those who believe**” (Rom. 4:11, 16). Abraham is the prototype of what constitutes saving faith.

At the end of Romans 4 Paul applies the truth of justification by faith alone to the person of Christ who was delivered up for our offenses and raised to life again for our justification.

This is where we pick up our study this morning.

Note that the thought of justification by faith alone on the basis of the death and resurrection of Christ begun in 4:23-25 now continues on into Romans 5.

Slide # 2

From the divine side:

Justification is provided through the death and resurrection of Christ.

Romans 4:25 (NKJV)

25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

From the human side:

Justification is by faith alone.

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

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

The last word in chapter 4 was “***justification***” which means to declare and treat as righteous. Having established justification is by faith alone Paul now builds on what this means for the believer in Christ as seen in chapter 5.

Paul described “***justification by faith alone***” as the condition of “blessedness” in Romans 4:6. It’s as if Paul now in chapter 5 enlarges on what this “blessedness” involves.

Romans 5:1–5 (NKJV)

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

The word “***Therefore***” ties back to what has been said. It is the idea of “as a result” or “for that reason”. It is the major HINGE word that ties everything he is about to say to what he has already established concerning “Justification by faith alone”. This has been the driving theme all the way through from Rom. 3:21 – 4:25. Based on the truth of justification by faith we see the following benefits or blessings that flow from it which are now developed. The whole paragraph of Romans 5:1-11 thus ties back to and builds on “being justified by faith”.

Everything builds on, “***Therefore, having been justified by faith***”. Being in a right relationship with God begins with faith which then ushers in a host of related blessings.

On the basis of “**justification by faith**” we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a textual variant which would make the text read “**let us have peace with God**” versus “**we have peace with God**”.

But almost all scholars agree that the flow of Paul’s thought in this context indicates the sense is “**we have peace with God**”.

As unbelievers we were in a position of enmity and hostility towards God as Paul clearly shows in verse 10. But in the act of saving faith, we were justified and in that reality we now have peace with God.

Justification is a legal word related to the pronouncement of a judge – in the sense of being declared righteous. Peace is a relational word speaking to the resultant nature of the relationship. We now have been reconciled to God. We are no long in a hostile relationship in which the wrath of God is hovering over us. Now we have peace with God. All is now well between the believer and God.

As those who now have peace with God Paul opens the letter with “peace from God” (Rom. 1:7). Peace now defines the believers relationship with God.

And this was all made possible “through our Lord Jesus Christ”.

Slide # 3

Colossians 1:20 (NKJV)

20 and by Him **to reconcile** all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

In Eph. 2:14 Paul writes that Jesus “**Himself is our peace**” (cf. Isa. 53:5; Acts 10:36).

This is why Jesus came to earth – to make it possible for people to have peace with God. This is what the angels announced at the birth of Christ.

Slide # 4

Luke 2:14 (NKJV)

14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

The Romans 5:1 peace with God is based on the “Therefore” of the verse that ties back to the death of Christ for our offenses and his resurrection for our justification in Romans 4:25. This is the basis of our peace relationship with God.

Note Paul here in Romans 5:1 does not speak of “***the peace of God***”, but rather of “***peace with God***”.

He is not here in Romans speaking of a subjective feeling but rather to the objective fact that the believer is no longer at enmity with God. Whether the feelings are there or not, “***peace with God***” is the factual status of the true believer’s relationship with God. This is the exact opposite of being under the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18; 5:9; Jn. 3:36).

Whether the believer feels like it or not their position of peace with God is real. It’s not based on their feelings but rather on their faith in Jesus. On the other hand, the unbeliever who claims to have peace is either lying or self-deceived. And there are so many deceivers who claim to have it all together but want nothing to do with Jesus.

Slide # 5

Isaiah 48:22 (NKJV)

22 “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”

The only place to find real peace is through faith in Jesus Christ. He alone is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6-7).

Now as believers who are in a “peace” relationship with God as a matter of positional status, God also wants us to experience “the peace of God” in our walk which happens in conjunction with prayer as seen in Phil. 4:6-7.

Slide # 6

Position (unchanging) “peace with God” (Rom. 5:1)

Practice (fluctuates) “peace of God” (Phil. 4:6-7)

One time a zealous Bible student who was preparing to go into the ministry visited a dear old saint who was on her deathbed. During the visit the young student said to the elderly lady, *“Don’t you think it would be wise to make peace with God?”* The elderly lady responded “No” which in turn startled the young student. He could not understand why she would not want to make peace with God.

So she said to him, *“I do not have to make peace with God; the Lord Jesus Christ made peace with God on my behalf, so I already have peace with God because of my faith in Jesus.”*

That lady understood our relationship with God depends on what Christ has accomplished on our behalf – not what we do. If it depended upon us, we could never have peace with God. But God’s way is by faith and not by our works. Being justified by FAITH we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Everything is on the basis of faith and through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of our faith we have peace with God through Jesus and we also have access into this grace in which we stand.

The word access has the idea of “introduction to” or “privilege of approach” concerning a superior.

This word access (Gk. ***prosagogen***) is found only two other times in the NT as seen in Eph. 2:18 and 3:12. In Eph. 2:18 the emphasis is that through Christ we have access to the Father; and in 3:12 through Christ we have access through faith in Him.

The idea of access goes further than to be declared righteous and being at peace. A king might pardon a subject and be on peaceable terms with a former rebel, but that did not mean this person had the right to come into the king’s presence. Access into this grace is access to God Himself and all the intimate spiritual blessings associated with it.

The idea of the ***“privilege of approach”*** is brought out in the book of Esther. No one could come before the king unless invited. If one showed up in the inner court of the king, the king could either hold out the golden scepter granting permission to approach or the person would die (cf. Est. 4:11-5:2). In effect, because of Christ, God is now permanently holding out the golden scepter of favor to believers.

Through Jesus, we who have come to faith, now have the privilege to come right into the very presence of God. We are now intimate with God. This is indeed a sphere of GRACE – which is the realm of privileged favor right in the very presence of God.

Even though here in Romans 5:2 the words “**by faith**” are not found in the older manuscripts, the idea carries through from verse 1. As seen in Romans 4:16 faith is in accordance with grace. The flow of thought is that we have access by faith into this grace.

It is true that we are saved by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8), but it is also true that being justified by faith we now enter into this position of grace in which we stand. Thus, faith ushers in a whole host of grace benefits and blessings.

Grace literally means “unmerited favor”. But we need to realize how truly unmerited it is.

Slide # 7

A better NT definition of *charis* [grace] would be unmerited favor toward an enemy – grace toward one who has forfeited any claim on God’s favor because of sin and who deserves the opposite – God’s judgment (5:9). – **HCSB Study Bible**

On the basis of our faith Christ has now ushered us into a standing of grace before God. We now have a standing in favor! It is a GRACE standing and it is a permanent standing! This is our position forever!

Our **access** into this standing of grace is only by faith, and through Jesus; we cannot *work* ourselves into this standing. – **David Guzik**

John 1:16 says of believers: “**Of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.**” We now stand in the favor of God. Our whole life is flavored by His grace. Paul’s consistent opening line in His letters to God’s people is, “**Grace to you from God**” (cf. Rom. 1:7).

“**Stand**” is in the perfect tense indicating completed action with continuing results. As believers we stand in grace and we will stand there forever. And in this position of grace, we “**rejoice in hope of the glory of God**”.

We stand in grace and the BEST is yet to be!

The word “**rejoice**” (Gk. kaudaomai) is sometimes translated as “*glory*” or “*boast*”. It is the idea of exultant rejoicing so as to shout about it. It is jubilation! One old preacher said, “Peace is joy resting; joy is peace dancing”. This is dancing joy! In our sin we fell short of the glory of God, but now we exult in it! This is something to celebrate and get excited about.

We as believers in the sphere of grace have the hope of God’s glory. The word hope refers to a certain expectation. This is what is in the future holds for us. Glory is up ahead – and it is the glory of God that we will not only experience but that we will share in (cf. Rom. 8:29; 1 Jn. 3:2). Our future is secure. We are headed for glory!

Slide # 8

Romans 8:17 (NKJV)

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be **glorified together**.

Note there is a past, present, and future aspect to the blessedness of where believers stand.

Slide # 9

Past – “been **justified** by faith” (Rom. 5:1)

Present – “this **grace** in which we stand” (Rom. 5:2)

Future – “rejoice in **hope of the glory** of God” (Rom. 5:2)

Faith ushers in peace, grace, joy, hope, and glory! What an amazing inheritance the saints have.

We had a dear old saint named Fay Green who has now gone on to the gloryland. He memorized lots of Scripture, played lots of instruments and loved the Lord. He often mentioned “***the gloryland***” to me in reverent tones. We sometimes sing the song “***Just Over in the Gloryland***” which has the refrain...

Just over in the gloryland,
I’ll join the happy angel band,
Just over in the gloryland,
There with the mighty host I’ll stand,
Just over in the gloryland.

Oh my, how we exult in this reality! It is our glorious HOPE! But what about in the here and now concerning all the afflictions God's people have to go through on our way there? Well Paul continues...

3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

We have the hope of glory but in the meantime, we are in process, and this process while often painful, also serves to build HOPE.

Not only do we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, we also glory in tribulations. The word "rejoice" in verse 2 and the word "glory" in verse 3 are the same Greek word.

Now we can understand why we would rejoice in coming glory, but how can it be that we would "rejoice" (or glory) in present tribulations? That is not normal or natural.

Note that Paul goes on to say, "**knowing**". We are able to glory in tribulations because we have come to KNOW that God is using them for a good purpose.

The word "tribulations" (Gk. *thlipseis*) is literally "pressures". It was used of a press that was used to squeeze fluid from grapes or olives. In view here are the pressures of life that come from living a life of faith. It refers to sufferings or afflictions related to living in a world hostile to God and His truth.

Slide # 10

Acts 14:22 (NKJV)

22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

A person of faith can expect "pressures" to follow. We should expect it.

Slide # 11

1 Peter 4:12–13 (NKJV)

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

Knowing that the Lord has a PURPOSE for the tribulations that come into our lives makes all the difference. We can now approach it with a whole different attitude – indeed we can even “glory in tribulation”. One believer was known to say when a new challenge or difficulty came into their life: ***“Here we grow again!”***

Slide # 12

James 1:2–4 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

When Paul was given a thorn in the flesh it troubled him greatly and he begged the Lord three times to remove it. But once he learned that it had a spiritually healthy purpose he changed his thinking.

Slide # 13

2 Corinthians 12:9–10 (NKJV)

9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

If Christ could use these “pressures” then Paul was all about it – indeed he said he would boast (or glory) in these things. The apostles rejoiced “that they were counted worthy to suffer shame” for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). Paul told the Philippians that they had been granted (or privileged) “to suffer” for Christ’s sake (cf. Mt. 5:10-12).

Tribulations have a refining effect in our lives. They serve to humble, purify, and strengthen us spiritually. And they are a “proving” reality.

Here is a principle by which you can discover the difference between a true child of God and one who is just a professed child of God. It is by the effect that tribulation has on him. In the life of a true child of God, tribulation brings him close to God, makes him steadfast and patient. There is another sort of person. Troubles come into the life and instead of bringing him close to God, tribulation makes him hard.

– *Alva McClain*

Slide # 14

Mark 4:16–17 (NKJV)

16 These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

The word “tribulation” here in Mark 4:17 is the same word used in Romans 5:3. Note this person in Mark 4 immediately makes a joyous profession, but then when the testing of tribulation comes they just as quickly fall away – because in truth they were never real. The word never really penetrated their hearts. They were merely bogus professors. The real proof for who is genuine and who is not is tribulations.

True believers can expect to be tried, tested, and proved – it just goes with the turf.

Slide # 15

John 15:20 (NKJV)

20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

John 16:33 (NKJV)

33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Someone has said a Christian is someone who is “***absurdly happy, filled with irrational love for everyone, and is always in trouble.***” Or maybe, we should say this is indicative of the Spirit-filled life.

Genuine believers come through tribulations and those tribulations produce perseverance. The word “perseverance” means steadfastness or endurance.

They say, “***whatever doesn’t kill you is good for you***”. That probably needs clarification, but it is true that tribulations have a spiritual purpose and are ultimately good for you in the sense that they produce perseverance.

“**Perseverance**” literally means “**to bear up under**”. This is the perseverance of the saints. True faith continues.

Slide # 16

Hebrews 10:38–39 (NKJV)

38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

We glory in tribulations because they prove our faith is REAL and strengthen us in the process. The reality of our faith is seen in that tribulations produce endurance. They make us stronger enabling us to keep on keeping on. “**No pain – no gain**”. Things actually get HARDER in your walk of faith as you go along. As you get older things get harder but in this whole process God is at work putting the final touches on His “workmanship” (Eph. 2:10). And in that we can rejoice!

God didn’t start out by calling Abraham to offer up his son as an offering. No there were all kinds of other challenges – smaller challenges – that led up to this ultimate test of his faith (cf. Gen. 22:1).

But through it all, including some stumbles along the way, Abraham persisted in his faith. And along the way he grew ever stronger in his faith (cf. Rom 4:20). That is the pattern!

And then perseverance produces character. What we go through molds and shapes our character. Learning to live with pressure builds character. The word character (Gk. dokimen) is the idea of “proven character”. Character is developed consistency – being consistent with who we now are in Christ.

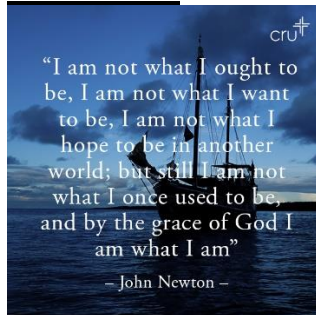
This word character belongs to a family of words related to a refining process such as when metals are refined and the dross removed. As we go through tribulations it makes us stronger and we come through refined!

Slide # 17**Job 23:10 (NKJV)****10 But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.**

When we stand in the presence of God, all material possessions will have been left behind, but all that we have gained by way of spiritual advance will be retained. This progress is a testimony to God, so it rightly has a place in glory. - **Expositors**

And character produces HOPE. Here we see the full circle of hope. As believers who stand in grace we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And then as we go through tribulations that build endurance which builds character this in turn strengthens our hope.

It strengthens our hope because we see God at work in our lives. Little by little he strengthens us and molds us.

Slide # 18

Who as a true believer cannot say this? “I am not what hope to be...but thank God I am not what I used to be”. As true believers we have been changed and we are being changed. And this reality fosters HOPE in our hearts that God will indeed bring to pass what he has started.

Slide # 19**Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)****6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;**

Believers are being transformed little by little “from glory to glory” – that is from one level of glory to another level by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18). As we see God strengthening and refining us it reinforces the hope for glory that is yet to be. And one day this hope will be fully realized. When we see Jesus we shall be like Him (1 Jn. 3:2).

As we rejoice in the hope of glory we also rejoice that God is currently at work in our lives which further strengthens our hope – the certain expectation that indeed God will bring us to fully share in His glory.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Biblical HOPE does not disappoint. Worldly “hope” does disappoint. You hope your taxes are going to go down – you are probably going to be disappointed. But a biblical HOPE is a certain expectation. And being certain about the promises of God never disappoints because God always fulfills His promise.

What God says He does! There is total consistency with God.

Years ago there was a certain salesman on TV and his line was “When you get here you find everything exactly as I said it would be.” I always wondered how true that was. But with God that is the way it is.

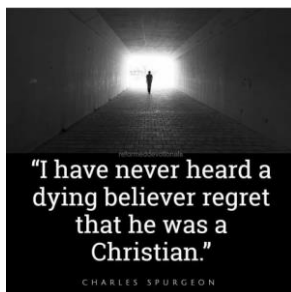
Slide # 20

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Thus, HOPE is never disappointed – it is never left unfulfilled – it never leaves a person humiliated and in shame for having put stock in the promises of God.

Slide # 21



Hope never disappoints! One will never be sorry for having their hope in God.

And WHY does hope not disappoint? Because “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit and His specialized ministries immediately becomes a reality living in you.

When you have HOPE in God the Holy Spirit along with that hope impresses the LOVE of God upon you. This is a spiritual reality. It is a subjective reality. But it is very real – experienced by those who truly know the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is a real person and He has come to live inside all believers. According to Galatians 3:2 we receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith. The moment we come to faith we are justified, we are declared righteous, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. From then on we as God's people are temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).

Slide # 22

Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

One of the Spirit's special ministries is that of working assurance in the heart of believers.

Slide # 23

Romans 8:16 (NKJV)

16 The **Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God,

1 John 5:10 (NKJV)

10 He who believes in the Son of God **has the witness in himself**; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

The ministry of the Spirit is hard to prove because it is personal, subjective, spiritual and abstract. And yet is very real. Paul spoke of a heart changing/life changing ministry which is "in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" which is contrary to human wisdom (1 Cor. 2:4-5). And yet it is very real! Paul speaks of the things of the Spirit which the natural (unsaved) person cannot perceive because they are spiritually discerned only with the help of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14).

The subjective experience of the love of God in the hearts of believers is one of those realities.

And notice the love of God has been poured out. It doesn't come as a trickle – but rather is poured out in abundance.

This is not talking about our love for God, but rather God's love for us as the next few verses in 5:6-10 clearly indicates.

The word "love" here is the Greek word "agape". This is the most intensive word for love in the NT and commonly defines God's love.

There are two aspects of knowing the love of God. 1) There is the subjective/abstract reality related to the heart, and then 2) there is the objective/historical reality of Christ dying for our sins in fulfillment of prophecy. These really go together and together provide a powerful assurance to the heart. Here in verse 5 Paul addresses the subjective but then goes on to also address the objective.

As believers we have the blessed assurance of our future destiny which is based on God's love as objectively demonstrated in the death of Christ and which is subjectively revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit works in our heart and assures us of God's great love as demonstrated in the cross work of Jesus.

No matter what we go through involving the tribulations of life we continually have the assuring and strengthening ministry of the Spirit in our hearts.

Romans 5:5 is the first occurrence in the letter of the Holy Spirit and it is also the first mention of the love of God. And appropriately they are linked. The chief fruit of the Spirit is love (Gal. 5:22). But again, here the emphasis is on God's love for us and the Spirit's ministry of applying that truth to our hearts.

In this passage we have a triune emphasis on faith, hope, and love.

Slide # 24

v. 1 "justified by **faith**"

v. 2, "**hope**"; v. 4, "**hope**"; v 5 "**hope**"

v. 5 "**love** of God"

In 1 Cor. 13:13 Paul famously said, “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

I once heard Erwin Lutzer tell this story. He was in Washington D.C. for some reason – and this took place during one of the Bush presidency’s – so it has been some time back.

But Erwin said when he was there that a friend of his who happened to be a secret service agent asked him if he would like to see the oval office in the White House. Erwin said that a farm boy like him from Canada would never turn down an opportunity like that.

So the next day they met to go to the capital. Erwin said as they came to the White House there was a regiment of soldiers standing guard, but when he approached they said, “Oh, you are with him (the secret service agent) go on in”. As they went further into the White House there was yet another check point, but when the guards saw the secret service agent they said, “Oh, you are with him – go on in”. And then they came to the hallway that led to the oval office and one guard was there, and he again said, “Oh you are with him – go on in.”

Now let me use my sanctified imagination with you. When you put your faith in Christ you are immediately joined to Christ – you are now in Christ. The devil seeks to accuse you (Rev. 12:10) but Jesus is there with you and says, “Come on in boldly to the throne of grace” (Heb. 4:16). And then imagine when you die as Jesus has promised to never leave you, He takes you to the first heaven and there you are met with a glorious band of angels, but as they see Jesus they say, “Oh you are with Him, go on in”.

And then as you enter into the realm of the second heaven you are met by yet another band of angels, but when they see you are with Jesus they say, “Oh, you are with Him, go on in”. And finally, you come to the third heaven where God dwells in unapproachable light -suddenly a wave of unworthiness floods over your soul. But as you draw closer the seraphim angels who cry out “holy, holy, holy” say to you, “Oh, you are with Him, come on in”.

How amazing is the truth of justification by faith in which Christ introduces us into the realm of grace in which we stand, including every spiritual blessing in Christ. When you walk through the door of faith, it’s as if Jesus then introduces into the sphere of GRACE and God the Father says, ***“Come on in to all the blessings I have prepared for those in Christ”.***

The last invitation of the Bible is a 3-fold invitation to “come” (Rev. 22:17). We come by faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord and when we do Jesus brings us into all the blessings of God. This is where we as believers stand in grace.

Where do you stand?

Jesus alone is the door. We must enter by Him. And the way we enter in is by faith. Jesus alone is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

Jesus invites...

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

COME!