**God’s Peace Received By Faith**

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Romans 5:1-21

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Romans 5:18-21, ESV)

**Introduction**

A key passage from Romans 4 that helps me to better frame and understand this fifth chapter is this: “No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised” (Romans 4:20-21, ESV). Notice that the Scriptures don’t say Abraham never had unbelieving thoughts or feelings, but rather that he continued to believe God’s promise to him. In the same way, when we keep our trust in God when our faith is tested, we discover that the source of these trials is the enemy of our souls, not our God.

**1. God’s love has extended His peace to all who believe. (Romans 5:1-8)**

 a) What does it mean to have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

 b) Having peace with God brings both perspective to and blessing from our suffering.

**2. Justified by Christ’s blood and saved by Him from the wrath of God. (Romans 5:9-14)**

 a) God has redeemed and reconciled us by the death of Jesus Christ.

 b) Once redeemed and reconciled by His death, we are saved by the life of Jesus Christ.

**3. The trespass of man and the free gift of God. (Romans 5:15-21)**

 a) Condemnation and justification contrasted and compared.

 b) Grace reigning through righteousness and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Conclusion**

That God allows but doesn’t cause the trials and tribulations of our lives is a difficult but important truth to understand. God allows our faith in Him to be tested so that our will—*that autonomous moral agency which allows us to pick and choose whether we will love God and love our neighbor as ourselves or just love ourselves*—can be shaped, strengthened and sanctified by faith and obedience as we can observe in the life of Christ, too (Hebrews 5:8). As Abraham’s choice to believe God helps us, our choice to believe helps others.

**For our prayerful study, discussion and application:**

1) Read Romans 5:1-8 again. Why is it important that we don’t confuse our troubles with God’s judgment?

2) Read Romans 5:15-21again. Why do the Word and Spirit of God compare Adam with Christ?

3) What are the Word and Spirit of God showing and telling you about your faith in God?

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