

Sunday, August 12, 2012—VBS Sunday—Romans 5:1: How Can I Have Peace with God?

Introduction

- I would like to personally thank all the parents for sending your children to our VBS this week. We would now like to take a few moments to share with you from the Word of God about what it means to have peace with God.
- Mankind has all sorts of different ideas about what it means to have peace with God. In our day humanity is striving by any and every means possible to find satisfaction with God. The following are common avenues that mankind often uses in our attempt to find peace with God:
 - Religion—going to church, tithing
 - Good Works—helping our fellow man
 - Philosophy—there is no absolute truth
 - Atheism—I don't need to worry about being at peace with God because He does not exist.
- Generally people view the issue of peace with God as a scale. According to this view if your good deeds outweigh your bad deed well then God will have to accept you.
- For the next few minutes I would like to share with you from the Bible about what it means to have peace with God.

Romans 5:1

- “Therefore being justified by faith”—the word justified means to render righteous, to declare or pronounce one to be just or righteous. Paul says that the people that have believed what he has said so far in the book of Romans have been declared just and right before God. In other words, they are possessors of the very righteousness of God.
- How did they get this righteousness? By faith. They did not get this righteous by being religious or performing good works. No, they were justified and declared to be righteous by faith.
 - Romans 4:3-5—faith is not a work. Faith is the only thing you can do without doing anything. Faith just requires you to hear, receive, and believe a message. Notice that God justifies or declares the ungodly to be righteous by faith.
- “we have peace with God”—notice that those who have been justified by faith have and possess in the present tense peace with God. God is at peace with those who have been given his righteousness by faith. If you have never trusted and believed that Christ died on the cross for your sins God is not at peace with you.

- Romans 1:16-18—when presenting the gospel of Christ, the very first thing Paul does is announce to the sinner that the wrath of God is abiding upon him. In other words if the sinner were to die in his/her trespasses and sins the justice of God would be obligated to eternally punish that person for their sins. Having the wrath of God abiding upon you is the exact opposite of presently possessing peace with God.
- Romans 3:23, 6:23—because all are sinners before God, our good works no matter how well intended will always leave us short of the glory of God.
- The justice of God is obligated to give eternal life to anyone who possesses perfect righteousness. The problem is that we all sinners who fall short of the glory of God. On our own we cannot do anything to earn our own salvation.
- “through our Lord Jesus Christ.”—notice that peace with God comes through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ did for us that which we could not do for ourselves. When Christ died on the cross he satisfied the offended justice of God against sin. He paid off the sin debt for all of humanity. He took our punishment for us so that we could freely be given the very righteousness of God.
 - Romans 3:24-25
 - I Corinthians 15:3-4—simply believing in Jesus is not enough. We need to believe that Jesus died upon the cross and shed his blood for our sins and rose again. When we place our faith exclusive in the work of Christ on our behalf we are justified and are at peace with God.
 - Colossians 2:13—when we trust Christ all our trespasses, past, present, and future are forgiven and replaced with the very rightness of God.
 - Ephesians 1:7
- Ephesians 2:8-9—you can have your sins forgiven, God’s very righteousness, and peace with God right now this very instant right where you are sitting. Right where you are you can receive the free gift of eternal life by placing your faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only total complete payment for your sin.