

A Word from Kathy

Often the one thing we all would like to have ends up being the thing that is most difficult to obtain. Why is that, probably because we look in all the wrong places? Peace, peace where can we find peace? If we look in relationships, we will be disappointed. If we look in material things, we will find we always want more. If we look for some perfect place to be, we will always find something that could be improved. But if we look to Jesus, we will never be disappointed, we could never want more, and we could never improve on his love and care for us. That truly is “good news.”

Observation

1. We saw in Romans 4 that Abraham put his faith completely in the One who made him the promises. God had spoken to Abraham, and he believed that God would be true to his word. Even though what God had promised had not come into being and his body was aging, he still trusted that God would faithfully carry out his promise.
What had God promised him (Gen. 12:2; 17:4)?
What did he need in order for that to happen?
2. Romans 5 begins with the word “Therefore” which always reminds us to look back over what the author has been saying. In light of Romans 1-4, “since we have been justified by faith,” what does Paul say is ours?
3. We not only have “peace with God,” but what else do we have to rejoice over (vs. 2)? Ponder this for a few minutes: What does this mean for all who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
4. When we realize that we could never redeem ourselves from the debt of sin we carry, then we are free to accept by faith the gift of salvation. What emotion does this stir up in you? What emotion did it stir up in Paul in verse 2?
5. In verses 3-5, we see a progression listed. Fill it in below.
We rejoice in _____.
Knowing that _____,
_____,
_____,
_____ does not put us to shame.

6. According to verses 6-9, were we capable of saving ourselves? What part did we play in salvation?

7. According to verse 10, “while we were enemies we were reconciled to God.” If we were enemies, how were we reconciled? This is crucial to our understanding and appreciating the gift that is given to us. Write it in your own words.

This word reconciled refers to the act of redemption insofar as God Himself, by taking upon Himself our sin and becoming the atonement, established that relationship of peace with mankind, which the demands of His justice had before prevented.

8. Paul used Adam’s sin to further show the beauty of Christ’s redemptive act of love. In a sentence or two write a brief explanation of the gospel. This is not a trick question. It is important that we not go on until we truly understand why the gospel is such “good news.”

Chuck Swindoll

“Grace is the currency of heaven, which makes grace an utterly absurd concept to the world. Grace is free to the receiver and costly to the giver. Grace transfers blessing from the storehouse of the deserving to the need of the unworthy. Grace is given with no expectations, no conditions, no constraints, and no record. In fact, grace is not genuine if it cannot be abused by the person receiving it—and many do abuse grace.”

9. Fill in the chart

Adam

disobeyed God’s command
many died
brought condemnation on all men
death reigned

Jesus

10. Was there a time when you tried to deal with the guilt from your sin like Adam and Eve (Gen.3:7)?

Application

11. Let's savor this thought for a few moments: "peace with God."

What does that mean to you today?

Can't you just feel the cool breeze of his pleasure blowing over you?

Can't you see the smile on his face as he looks your way?

12. Are you resting in the assurance that no circumstance is the result of God's punishment?

Bad things do still happen, but that is because we live in a fallen world. It is because there are consequences for sin, not because God is punishing us.

That is why we can rejoice. Phil 4:5 "...The Lord is at hand."

Ps. 119:151 "You are near, O LORD,"

13. According to verses 3-5, placing our faith in Christ does not mean we will never have problems, trials or temptations. It does assure us that they will not be without purpose. How does knowing this benefit us?

14. Peace with God does not always mean we live a problem free life. I stood on a high platform one day watching my grandchildren trying to find their way out of a maze. They often would look up and I would point them in the correct direction. They would take a few steps and then quickly forget about me and return to their own efforts. Frustration and anxiety would set in and then again they would look up for direction. When we place our faith in Jesus' finished work on our behalf, then we can simply look up for direction. He is our hope and salvation. Peace with God means we no longer need to plot our own course. We stand in his grace (vs. 2), and we rejoice in _____. What does this mean to you today?

15. If we have been saved by God's grace, then we can choose the right focus; our focus will initiate the right emotions and attitude. What result can we expect?