**Romans 5 – Experiencing Peace With God**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* **Rom. 5:1** presents an amazing truth regarding our relationship with God. This text follows on Paul’s explanation about how we are made right with God because of our faith in Jesus Christ.
* The writer of Romans, Paul, is invested regarding our relationship with God as we shall see.

**Two Truths To Think About**

**We who are Christ followers are at peace with God – vs. 1**

* Note **Jn. 3:16-19**. **Vs. 18** tells us that those who refuse to believe in Jesus are already under judgment, because they have not made a decision to follow Christ. Anyone who has not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior is at peace with God. **Jn. 3:19** tells us why judgment occurs.
* People are without excuse when they reject God **(Rom. 1:18-20)**.
* God reveals Himself in four ways – creation **(Ps. 19:1)**, conscience **(Rom. 1:18-20)**, the Bible **(2 Tim. 3:16-17)** and through Christ Himself (the Gospels).
* **Rom. 5:10** tells us that we were “enemies” of God (we were hostile and opposed to Him in our life).
* When we become a Christian, we are declared to be in right standing before God. He accepts us, forgives us, and adopts us into His family.
* We not only have peace with God, but we can also experience the peace of God in our life. Jesus promised peace to His followers. The Holy Spirit helps us to have peace in our life **(Gal. 5:22-23)**.
* The judgment seat of Christ where believers will be is a place of rewards **(1 Cor. 3)**.
* Nothing changes our standing before God **(Rom. 5:1)**. We are completely forgiven **(Rom. 4:7-8)**, yet we do not have the freedom to live as we want who believe in Jesus **(Rom. 6:1-2; Gal. 5:13)**.

**\*\* Matthew 12:33-37 – A misunderstood passage that can steal our peace that we have with God**

* In these verses Jesus is talking about a person’s life and character. He has just finished discussing the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit (the religious leaders said the Holy Spirit was a fallen angel) and that Jesus did miracles through the power of our spiritual enemy.
* The “fruit” is evidence of our life and whether we know God or not or are at peace with Him.
* In **vs. 34** Jesus speaks directly to the Pharisees who are not believers in Jesus.
* **Vs. 35** contrasts people who have a relationship with God and those who do not.
* The word “treasure” **(vs. 35)** has to do with our inner person, our thoughts, feelings, purposes.
* In **vss. 36-37** He tells the Pharisees that they will answer for their careless words and will give an “account” (to give an answer to a claim, to render something due) for what they said about the Holy Spirit. See **Rev. 20:11-15**.
* The word “careless” in **vs. 36** means “things from which there is no profit, though they should be productive, ineffective, worthless.”
* Spoken words can injure others. People without Christ will be held accountable for what they say. The context of **Mt. 12** does not include Christians, but we must watch what we say and do.
* **Practical:** Rest in the fact God has accepted us and nothing can separate us from His love **(Rom. 8:35-39)**. We are not under God’s judgment. We are His children – adopted, forgiven, accepted.
* **Practical:** Do not fear the Bema (judgment) seat of Christ. Our sins were judged at the cross. This judgment is for rewards. We also must remember we are called to live at peace with others **(Col. 3)**.

**We always have a direct connection with God – vs. 2**

* We experience the grace of God daily in our lives. He cares for us, He teaches us because of His grace **(Titus 2:11-12)**. God helps us to grow, and we have a part to play in that growth **(Phil. 2:11-12)**.
* **Vs. 2** says that we have “obtained” access into the grace of God that we now stand in. We have the assurance that He accepts us as His children **(Eph. 2:18; Eph. 3:12)**.
* We can approach God directly We have “admission” to talk to the Lord in prayer, in seeking wisdom and guidance.
* **Practical:** The God we know is personal, loving, gracious, and wants to help us grow as Christ followers. We can talk to Him, get guidance from the Word of God, and have direct access to God. We experience His grace as He takes care of us. We must put in the time to know God.