

October 27/28, 2012

The Gospel Story: We Have Peace

A Study of Romans

Romans 5:1-11

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Opening Discussion

1. The lyrics to “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” seem to capture well the operating system of this world. We get rewarded or punished based on whether we were naughty or nice. Can you name other ways we learn this operating system? (work, sports, hobbies, school, parenting, legal system, etc.)
2. Does this mean these operating systems are bad or evil or contrary to God in some way? Explain. Practically, what might grace look like in some of these environments?
3. Why is it so hard to fully comprehend how God’s operating system of grace could be true?

Bible Study

1. Review briefly what Paul has taught us about how God is able to “justify the ungodly.”
2. Read Romans 5:1-5. What does the “therefore” refer to in 5:1? The “having been justified” tells us what follows are the results or benefits of being justified. What are those benefits according to this text?
3. What allows us to “exult” in our tribulations? What does this mean?

4. Read Romans 5:6-11. Paul uses a technique common in the first century that argues from the difficult to the easy. In other words if this is true (the hard part) then certainly we can believe this is true (the easy part). According to this text what is the hard part and what is the easy part? How does this assure us that our hope won't disappoint us?

5. The references to "saved" in 5:9-10 are future tense. Paul states in 1:16 that he is not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for salvation. How does it help to define salvation as past, present and future? IF our concept of our salvation is primarily past tense (was saved) how does that effect our understanding of the bigger Gospel story?

Application

1. Summarize the benefits of having been justified by faith.

2. How does this affect how you view yourself and your circumstances?

3. How does the peace that comes from justification by faith equip you to function well in a performance based world? Will you perform better or worse as a result of the peace you experience having been justified by faith? Why?