

## Peace with God

A little girl whose baby brother had just died asked her mother where the baby had gone. “To be with Jesus,” replied the mother. A few days later, talking with a friend, the mother said, “I am so grieved to have lost my baby.” The little girl heard her, and, remembering what she had told her, asked, “Mother, is a thing lost when you know where it is?” “No, of course not.” “Well, then, how can Baby be lost when he has gone to be with Jesus?” Her mother never forgot this.

Romans 5: 1 – 11

### 1) The Pursuit of Peace

- I have asked many people if they have peace in their lives and most have told me that they don't.
- Everyone acknowledges that they want peace and would pursue it if they knew where to find it.
- Different people have different reasons for the lack of peace in their lives:
  - Worrying about the future
  - Worrying about how to get through the present
  - Worrying about those they love
  - Enmity and strife with family members and/or colleagues
  - Fears of all sorts, including the fear of death
- People have different ways that they pursue peace:
  - Charitable works
  - Meditation
  - Going to church
- The problem is that peace is never truly found as long as we are at enmity with God
- The root of our lack of peace is sin. Sin separates us from God and is the fundamental reason for the above reasons of a lack of peace.
  - Imagine that you have broken the law and you are about to face the judge. You are fearful and anxious. You are in despair because you fear the worst.
  - The reason for this lack of peace is because you have broken the law.
  - So it is for all of us who have broken the law of God and know that one day we will all stand before Him – the ultimate judge.
  - Hebrews 9: 27 “Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment”
  - As everyone has sinned – broken the law of God – it is no wonder that we do not have peace knowing that judgment awaits us all.

### 2) Finding Peace with God

- God, in all His love for us, sent Christ to die on a cross for us even while we were still sinners.
  - Take our example again of you having broken the law and have to face the judge. Before we enter the court room someone enters the court room in our place, stands before the judge and is judged for the law that we broke. Our attorney comes out of the courtroom to tell us that we are free to go as our judgment has already taken place. He takes out our criminal record and we see that it is blank – we don't have a criminal record anymore because someone else paid the price for us. Now we can go in and face the judge with confidence. We have peace because there is no more basis for judgment.
  - So it is that Christ paid the price for all of our sins. When we believe that he did so we enter into a new relationship with God – one of peace because we know that He won't judge us. When we believe He forgives us our sins and wipes our sins – our criminal record – clean. Jesus has already been judged in our place
  - We can now face death because we know that we will be with God forever.
- If you've been carrying a burden on your shoulders for years and it is suddenly lifted how do you feel?
  - Relieved, joyful, at peace

### 3) Rejoicing in the Hope of the Glory of God

- So when we have entered into the new relationship with God we rejoice in the hope of glory.
  - Luke 15: 10 “In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- We don't have to face entering into eternity with fear and trepidation any longer but with joy and confidence because our citizenship is in heaven
  - When we lived in India we always went through the Indian customs with some anxiety that they will give us some problem for entering their country. But whenever we returned to South Africa we went through customs with confidence and normally to a “welcome home” because we are citizens of South Africa.
  - We can go through the door of death and enter heaven with confidence because we have, through Christ, become citizens of heaven.
- Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the Dawn has come.”

Rabindranath Tagore