

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	16
Sunday AM Worship	27
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wed. Bible Study	16
Offering	\$2250



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**Times of Services:**

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am  
AM Worship:...11:00am  
PM Worship:...6:00pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKS  
93.5 FM

**We Extend A  
Warm & Cordial  
Welcome  
To All Our  
Visitors!**

**IN CHRIST, WE HAVE...**

Tim Canup

Many companies offer "benefits" to people in order to encourage them to either work for them or to do business with them. However, to enjoy the benefit offered by a company, one must be an employee or customer. There are numerous "benefits" or blessings listed in the New Testament for us to become a Christian (cf. Ephesians 1:3). To enjoy the blessing of Christianity, one must be IN Christ. Many have, especially from Romans, come to an incorrect conclusion of how to get into Christ, that is, how to be saved. Many have concluded that the reference to the word "faith" in Romans means "faith alone."

In Romans chapter 4, Paul used Abraham as an example of one who was justified without circumcision and without the Law. Then, in chapter 5, Paul presents some benefits we have having been justified by our living, obedient faith. Notice these with me.

**PEACE (Romans 5:1):**

Paul said "we have peace with God..." He mentions the "peace of God" in Philippians 4:7. Sin has

*Continued Inside*

**Have you died with Christ?**



**Spiritually Dead**  
Ephesians 2:1, 5

**New Life, Born Again**  
2 Corinthians 5:17  
John 3:5

**Sanctified (Romans 6:22)**



**Buried With  
Jesus**

Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12



**Raised into New  
Life**

By our faith (Col 2:12)



**United with Jesus  
in His Death**

Romans 6:5

caused a division between us and God; it has put us at odds with Him, it has put us at war so to speak (Isaiah 59:1-2; James 4:4). This world is filled with sin and turmoil. We live in a world that is seeking peace (from war). In 1988, The Personnel Journal reported, “since beginning of recorded history, the entire world has been at peace less than 8% of the time! In its study, the periodical discovered that of 3530 years of recorded history, only 286 years saw peace. Moreover, in excess of 8000 peace treaties were made--and broken.” This world will never be at peace according to man’s concept of it. However, we CAN have peace (peace with God and peace of God).

Let me take a moment to clearly define what I mean by peace. One internet definition said of peace: “freedom from disturbance; freedom from or the cessation of war or violence; a pact or agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity; quiet and tranquility.” Another said, “Peace that {God} gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with {us} always” (sermonillustrations.com). The story is told of a teacher who asked the students to paint picture of their concept of “peace.” Of all the pictures, it came down to two, both of birds sitting in a tree. Between the two pictures of birds sitting peacefully in a tree, the winner was of a bird perched in midst of a violent storm.

#### **ACCESS (Romans 5:2):**

Let us establish a clear definition of what we mean by “access.” It is that which grants entrance; it also involves having the proper authority. For example, a key gives one access (cf. Matthew 16:19 when Peter was given the “keys of the kingdom,” which he used in Acts 2 & 10). Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber” (John 10:1).

So, what does it really mean that in Christ we have access? Notice Paul said it was “by faith,” that is, an obedient faith and not by faith alone. Then he said, “into this grace,” which refers to a right standing or relationship with God (cf. Heb 4:14a, 16; Heb 10:19-20; Eph 2:13-18).

#### **SECURITY (Romans 5:2):**

In verse 2 Paul said, “...wherein we stand...” (cf. I Corinthians 15:1). The fact is, “in Christ,” we have security. Not in the sense of the man-made doctrine of once-saved, always saved. However we have security in the sense that Satan CANNOT steal our salvation from us (cf. John 10:28-29; I Peter 1:4; I John 1:7).

It was the late H. Leo Boles who introduced the idea of Satan as a mad dog on a chain. A mad dog can do great harm to us, it can even be fatal. However, if he is properly chained, he can only harm us if we go within his range. Satan, as a chained mad-dog, cannot get to us, unless we go within his realm. So, he lures us into his clutches. God chained him by the perfect life, powerful death and victorious resurrection of His sinless Son. So therefore, in Him, we do have security (Hebrews 13:5-6).

#### **REASONS TO REJOICE (Romans 5:2-5):**

In the latter part of verse 2, Paul said, “rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” There are great reasons to rejoice; the lost sinner has now been redeemed. If we remain faithful, then we have that blessed eternal home in Heaven. Therefore, Paul could write, “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The Psalmist wrote, “Happy *are* the people whose God *is* the LORD!” (Psalm 144:15b). Just in case someone may be wondering how we can rejoice in light of how difficult Christian life can be at times, with the trials, troubles, persecution, let me assure you, there are reasons to rejoice! Paul said we can rejoice, even in the midst of persecution! He wrote, “And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;<sup>4</sup> and perseverance, character; and character, hope.<sup>5</sup> Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us (Romans 5:3-5). Notice that verse 5 tells us how God’s love is shed abroad in our hearts; knowing Christ has died for us. He begins verse 3 with “and not only that...” then he said we can “glory in tribulation.” The word “glory” is the same word translated “rejoice” in verse 2. How is this possible? The answer is in his words, “worketh patience.” The fact is that the trials we face will build us up and make our faith stronger (cf. James 1:2-3).

*“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” (2 Corinthians 4:7).*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Sept 12 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship Service
- Sept 12-16 – Gospel Meeting with Eddy Craft
- Sept 26 – Prayer Service after Evening Worship
- Oct 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class after Evening Worship
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell