

DAY 2 • AUGUST 6

Unashamed of the Gospel

READ: ROMANS 5

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

ROMANS 5:1-5

REFLECT

We will never be the same after encountering the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are assured freedom from the sting of death and the hold of sin in our life (1 Corinthians 15:55; Romans 6:18). But how exactly does the gospel translate into real life? What does having a new life in Christ actually mean for us? In Romans 5, we see what we are and have because of the gospel.

We are justified in the eyes of God. God is holy, and therefore holds no tolerance for sin. When sin entered the world through Adam, it was passed on to every man and woman who came after him (Romans 5:12). None of us had the power to save ourselves from sin, because we all sinned against God (Romans 3:23). But what seemed impossible to man became possible through the perfect and sacrificial obedience of Jesus Christ, the son of God (Romans 5:19). Because of Jesus, we are now holy and righteous in the sight of God.

We are reconciled and at peace with God. While sin separated us from God and made us His enemies, Jesus' death brought us back to Him (Romans 5:10). We can now approach God confidently, knowing that our relationship with Him has been restored because of Jesus.

We have access to God's grace. To have the grace of God means that we receive unmerited favor from Him. This grace that we've received isn't based on how we behave, and we did not do anything to earn it (Romans 11:6). It is a gift that comes only by Jesus' redemptive work on the cross (Romans 3:24). Grace also strengthens us when we are weak and helps us in times of need (2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 4:16).

We are bearers of the hope of Christ. This hope allows us to rejoice whenever we face hardships in this life. Not only that, it pushes us to endure the things ahead, trusting that they refine our character. The last characteristic of this hope is one worthy of drawing our attention too—it is a hope that does not put us to shame in this life or the next. The world may disagree and contend with us because of our faith, and we will encounter hardships and challenges. But we can rest assured that because of the gospel, our powerful God is always for us and not against us (Romans 8:31). His will for us is always good, acceptable, and perfect, and He has given us the gift of spending eternity with Him (Romans 12:2).

RESPOND

1. What challenges are you facing right now? Declare that, in Christ, you can experience hope and victory today.
2. What is the hope you have in Christ, in light of your present situation? How can you hold fast to and confess this hope daily?
3. What are mindsets (fear, feelings of inadequacy, insecurity) that you have to break in order to access all He promises us through the gospel?
4. Memorize at least five Bible verses you can declare whenever you go through challenges.

PRAY

1. Thank God for your salvation and for what Jesus did for you on the cross.
2. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the mindsets you have to break in order to go deeper into the hope you have because of the gospel.
3. Pray that God would use your life to display who He is to others.