

The Gifts Under His Tree – Romans 5:1-10

1) The Gift of Justification (5:1)

- a The Guilty Made Acceptable to God
- b The declaration by the Offended that He is satisfied in His judgment and accepts the sinner as positionally righteous even though he still dwells in a sinning state.
- c This judgment that God accepts is not merely looking past our sin, but rather paying it down through the sacrifice of Jesus in our place

2) The Gift of Peace With God (5:1)

- a Former enemies become friends
- b We become God's friends by trusting in His Son and receiving Him as our sole Savior from sin and Reconciler between God and man (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 9:15)

3) The Gift of Access to God (5:2a)

- a More than mere position, in general, we are brought near to God through Jesus
- b We can enter into God's presence without fear (Jesus paid down our offense against God) and with great boldness (knowing that God's love is so great that He Himself paid down our debt and graced us with such an invitation) (Eph 3:12)
- c This access was purchased by the blood of Jesus (Heb 10:19-20)

4) The Gift of Hope of the Glory of God (5:2b)

- a This hope of God's glory is related to our inheritance, as heirs of God through Christ (Rom 8:17; Eph 1:11-12)
- b We have been given a foretaste through the Holy Spirit's presence with us, but there is a coming day when our redemption will be conformed into the image of Jesus (Rom 8:29)
- c Promise of seeing Jesus as He is (1 John 3:1-3)
- d The prospect of seeing the Lord face-to-face should light a flame of joy within the adopted son's heart.

(1) "I see myself now at the end of my journey, my toilsome days are ended, the thought of what I am going to, and of the conduct that waits for me on the other side, doth lie as a glowing coal at my heart...I have formerly lived by hearsay, and faith, but now I go where I shall live by sight, and shall be with him, in whose company I delight myself."

~ Mr. Stand-fast (*Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan)

(2) Psalm 37:4, "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you your desire"

5) The Gift of Suffering (5:3-4)

- a What kind of gift is that?!!
- b Suffering is a means, ordained by God and participated in by Christ, to a greater end
 - i An end so great that the suffering can be considered a gift
 - ii Look at Job: suffering showed Him God, and that was enough (Job 42)
- c Suffering brings us to the presence of God through His Holy Spirit within us (v5)

- i Suffering brings us to hope in that which is sure: the faithfulness of God's love for us (our suffering is useful in His wise love)
 - ii Jesus Himself endured great suffering, even the cross, for the joy that was set before Him (Heb 12:2)
- (1) Not that the suffering is joyful, but it's outcome is...God Himself in nearness...Immanuel

6) The Gift of the Love of God through the Holy Spirit (5:5-8)

- a God Himself with us, in us, to remind us and transform us: HOPE!
 - i Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, imparting words not of human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual people (1 Cor 2:12-13)
- b Rooted in Christ's substitutionary death
 - i Christ died for the ungodly: LOVE
 - ii Jesus in our place reveals the depth of God's love for us, so when suffering comes upon us we KNOW that He is completely for us and not far away from us: Immanuel
- c Christ died for us sinners – The Great Exchange
 - i While we were yet sinners (we had not done anything that would demand or procure God's love toward us)
 - ii Christ died for us
 - (1) He died in our place
 - (2) It's not just that he died to show us how much he loved us, that would just be insane suicide.

7) The Gift of Deliverance From Wrath (5:9)

- a He who relies upon the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (John 3:36)
- b Wrath here refers to the wrath of God that satisfies God's justice. Justice is good, it is right, but that also means that God metes out justice to us for we sin.
- c Notice carefully, the "much more" emphasis which follows the statement of verse 8, "that Christ died for us." This verse, like many others, promises that those who have put their trust in Christ will not come into judgment or face God's wrath because Jesus Christ, our Savior, took God's judgment in our place. (Rom. 8:1 and Jn. 5:24).
- d In this "Great Exchange" – God's wrath poured upon Christ for our sins, and Christ's blessings poured upon us for his obedience – beats the heart of the good news of Christ's coming. Through His cross God's justice is satisfied upon our sins and His mercy is poured out upon the objects of his love in forgiveness, so that God is both just and the justifier of the one who trusts in Jesus (Rom 3:25-26)

8) The Gift of Joy (5:11)

- a "Exult" is a word used three times in this passage, verse 2, "we exult in hope of the glory of God," in verse 3, "we also exult in our tribulations," and here "we exult in God." Literally, it means "to boast" and from this it came to mean "exult, joyfully praise, triumphant joy," so in the sense of

joyous confidence. It refers to a boasting which comprises the elements of "confidence, joy, and gratitude," but in this case, it is a paradox for the one who glories or boasts looks away from himself to God and glories in God's grace.

- b Paul is writing about a boasting in the sense of a triumphant and confident rejoicing in God *through the work of Christ* as the verse makes clear. It is a rejoicing which expresses a bold confidence, **not** based upon our record or behavior, but on, please note, "the reconciliation" which vs. 10 describes as accomplished by the death of God's Son. Reconciliation means the barriers of offense and separation have been removed by the finished work of Christ. This is why Paul notes that he will only boast (exult) in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal 6:14).
- c Paul is talking about the assurance of our salvation. Why and how can we rejoice triumphantly in the assurance of our salvation in God? Because of the "reconciliation," because of what Christ has done with emphasis on the word "**done**." Note this emphasis in bold throughout this passage in verses 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Notice how the Apostle refers to the work of Christ in vs. 11. He calls it "the reconciliation"? Why? Because there is only one means of reconciliation to God which gives "peace with God."

9) All of These Gifts Come "Through Him" and His Tree:

- a Romans 5:1-11 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, ²**through whom also** we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts **through the Holy Spirit** who was given to us. ⁶For while we were still helpless, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly**. ⁷For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us**. ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by **His blood**, we shall be saved from the wrath of *God through Him*. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God **through the death of His Son**, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹And not only this, but we also exult in God **through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom** we have now received the reconciliation. (NASB)
 - i What exactly is "the reconciliation." Reconciliation "a changing from enmity to friendship." It refers to a man and woman's reconciliation from separation to intimacy in 1 Corinthians 7:11, but most often reflects God's gracious work in Christ which removes the enmity, the barriers of separation which sets God free, as a holy God, to give us the gifts of salvation without cost.
 - ii Because of God's grace and gifts to us in His Son through the Tree, the Cross, we can boast in God, in the assurance of eternity, and of His constant love, not because of what or who we are in ourselves, but because of what we are *in Christ* by His grace.
 - iii Ah!!! Do you see what this mean? When you unwrap these presents, you find them backed up by the faithfulness and guarantee of God Himself through the perfect and finished work of Christ. You cannot break these gifts or wear them out. Indeed, they last for eternity and they do all that is promised and more.