



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional Guide

Thursday March 26, 2020

A - Approaching God – Start with Prayer

Psalms 32:1–2 — 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity...

Meditate on the fact that as a Christian and a child of God you are blessed - your cup overflows with forgiveness.

B - Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Romans 5:1-8 - 1Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through 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. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and 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. **6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Look in God's Word

****At the end of the guide there is a brief commentary on Romans 5:1–8. It may be helpful to read the commentary as a helpful tool before jumping into the study questions*

- What does this passage tell us about what God has done so that we can know we have the peace of God and the love of God?
- What does this passage tell us about how we experience God's work so that we grow in hope?

- Vs. 3-4 give us a process of growth -- what is that process? Why does each step lead to the next? For example, why does suffering lead to endurance?

Look in Our Own Lives

- How have you experienced suffering as God's means to grow you and actually increase your hope in the Lord?
- How are you viewing and responding to any current suffering in your life right now?
- You experience increased hope in the work of the Lord as you spend time with the Lord and as you listen for the Spirit voice of love. How can you facilitate such an experience in your life today?

Look Outward Toward Others

- Who in your life appears to have no hope in the midst of their suffering? How can you encourage them? Pray for them during the "Close in Prayer" time.

C - Close in Prayer

- Take advantage of your access to God - list out and pray your requests to God:
- Pray for the "hopeless in suffering" -- Ask the Lord how you might be used to be a means of hope in their life?

Commentary on Romans 5:1–8

There is actually a structure to Romans 5:1-8:

A - 1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

B - 2 Through 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.

X - 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

B - 5 and 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.

A - 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Seeing this structure helps us to recognize the logical flow and point of Paul words here:

Vs. 1 and vs. 6-8, tell us what God has objectively done in Christ, which is the foundation of our hope. Vs. 1 tells us he has justified us so that we have peace with God, and vs. 6-8 tells us how He justified us, by the death of a righteous man for sinners.

Vs. 2 and 5 tell us why we can experience a joyous hope even now: First, we see in Vs. 2 that because of justification we have access to God even now, and second, vs. 5 tells us that God's love is communicated to us by the Spirit. The logic of Paul's communication here is that we subjectively (each of us personally) experience more and more deeply the truth of God's objective and completed work in Christ Jesus. We experience this through our access to God in prayer, and as we experience God's love through the Holy Spirit. These deepening experiences of access to God and knowing God's love increase our expectation, our hope.

Vs. 3-4 then tells us the nitty-gritty process by which we grow in hope. The process is that we experience God more fully by prayer and by the Spirit and become more convinced of our peace with God and love from God in the midst of an endurance building and character shaping suffering. It is actually in our suffering that we become ever more convinced that nothing can take away from us what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.