

Romans: What a Difference a (Resurrection) Day Makes

Romans 5:1-11

*His heart beats
And everything is changed
'Cause the blood that brought us peace with God
Is racing through his veins
(“His Heart Beats”, Andrew Peterson)*

3 Differences Jesus' Death and Resurrection Makes

#1 - Because of Christ's work, we have peace with God (vv. 1, 10-11)

- Paul not talking about some super-spiritual feeling of peace that we have about God.
- This is not an inner peace but actual peace—the hostilities between us and God have ended.
 - Not only that we are no longer in rebellion against God...
 - But that God is no longer angry with us.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. (Isaiah 40:1-2)

• Application:

- Do you have peace with God through Christ?

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

- Are you resting in the peace of Christ?

“Greetings.” (Matthew 28:9)

“Do not be afraid.” (Matthew 28:10)

“Peace to you.” (Luke 24:26)

“Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?” (Luke 24:38)

“Peace be with you.” (John 20:19; 21; 26)

#2 - Because of Christ's work, we have access to God (v. 2a)

- The word “access” is often used in terms of royalty, of an audience before a king.
- In the Bible, the word refers to access to God's throne or presence.

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Ephesians 2:17-18)

- For those in Christ, not only is God's anger not directed against us—God's affection is directed toward us!

Our relationship with God, into which justification has brought us, is not sporadic but continuous, not precarious but secure.... No, we stand in it, for that is the nature of grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love. (John Stott)

- Application:
 - One of the tactics of the Evil One is to make us doubt God's grace toward us.
 - But we should never let our sins keep us from Christ.

God permits sin to remain in you for the very reason that you would always be of a humble disposition and to make use of Christ daily. It would be mockery if you did not repeatedly have a heartfelt desire to sin no more, while yet praying for strength against and the forgiveness of sin. Since, however, this is the case with you, do not allow the fact that you sin repeatedly keep you from prayer. Rather, come all the more, since you are in need of forgiveness and strength, so that the grace of God may be glorified all the more. (Wilhelmus à Brakel)

#3 - Because of Christ's work, we have hope in God (vv. 2b-9)

- In the Bible, hope is not a wish but a conviction—the conviction that God's heaven is real and that we will have a share in it through Christ.
- But how do we have this kind of hope?
 - Suffering conspires to strip away false hopes and lead us to the only true hope.

One of the great obstacles to a full and strong hope in the glory of God is the fear that we are hypocrites—that our faith is not real and that we just inherited it from our parents and have been motivated by things that are not honoring to God. One of the purposes of afflictions in our lives is to give us victory over those fears and make us full of hope and confidence as the children of God. So God takes us through hard times to temper the steel of our faith and show us that we are real, authentic, genuine, proven, and in that way give us hope that we really will inherit the glory of God and not come into judgment. (John Piper)

- And the Spirit confirms our hopes by pouring God's love into our hearts.

Sometimes our spirits cannot stand in trials. Therefore sometimes the immediate testimony of the Spirit is necessary. It comes saying, 'I am thy salvation!' and our hearts are stirred up and comforted with joy inexpressible. This joy hath degrees. Sometimes it is so clear and strong that we question nothing; other times doubts come in soon. (Richard Sibbes)

- So how do you know that this love is real and genuine?
- Consider Christ's death for you—and, specifically, *when* He died for you!