

The Blessing of Faith

Romans 4:23-5:5



The Blessing of Faith

- **Abraham**
 - Fully convinced on God's promise
 - Faith did not wavier
 - Counted righteousness

The Blessing of Faith

- **Abraham // Jesus**
 - Abraham considered dead in child-bearing // Jesus was dead
 - God's life giving power gave Isaac to Abraham // God's life giving power raise Jesus Christ
- **Significance for us?**
 - Isaac was the concrete proof of God's promise to Abraham // Jesus is the concrete proof of God's salvation for us.
 - Jesus is the foundation of our faith.

The Blessing of Faith

- **Jesus is the foundation of our faith**
 - **Justification is an act of God in the past seen in Jesus Christ; faith in God appropriates justification for our lives.**

Justification by faith → friendship with God

The Blessing of Faith?

Martyrs of Lyon

The Blessing of Faith: Peace with God

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

The Blessing of Faith: Peace with God

What is peace with God?

– Greek: absence of war; no more enmity with God

“There is more in this peace than barely a cessation of enmity. There is friendship and loving-kindness, for God is either the worst enemy or the best friend.” – Matthew Henry

The Blessing of Faith: Peace with God

What is peace with God?

- Greek: absence of war; no more enmity with God**
- Hebrew: well-being, wholeness, prosperity**
 - Not so much individually but socially**

“Does peace with God compel us to have peace with others?”

The Blessing of Faith: Faith that Hope for God's Glory

“...we boast in hope of the glory of God, and not only so, but we also boast in our suffering...” (Romans 5:2-3)

The Blessing of Faith: Faith that Hope for God's Glory

- **Boasting... the problem lies on the object and the result of boasting**
 - **Focusing on self: thinking we are better than others → WRONG**
 - **Focusing on God: totally humbled and God be exalted → CORRECT**
- **We boast in hope of the glory of God**

The Blessing of Faith: Faith that Hope for God's Glory

- **Boasting... the problem lies on the object and the result of boasting**
 - **Focusing on self: thinking we are better than others → WRONG**
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- **We boast in hope of the glory of God = hope to attain the likeness of God**

The Blessing of Faith: Faith that Hope for God's Glory

“I am a Christian, and there is nothing vile done by us.” – Balindina, Martyrs of Lyon

The Blessing of Faith: Faith that Hope for God's Glory

- **She boasted in her suffering that she will be like Christ and to be with Christ.**
- **Similar for us, don't give up on hope; have faith on the hope of the glory of God.**

The Blessing of Faith: Assured by God's Love

“And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 5:5)

The Blessing of Faith: Assured by God's Love

“The love of God does not descend upon us as dew in drops, but as stream which spreads itself abroad through the whole soul, filling it with the consciousness of his presence and favour.” – Charles Hodge

The Blessing of Faith: Assured by God's Love

- **God's love is not about a good feeling, neither is it about an emotional high.**
- **God's love is God giving of Himself without restraint to us. God is love.**

“God's love is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that is given onto us.”

The Blessing of Faith

- **Blessing of faith for the Martyrs of Lyon**
 - To be like Christ and to be with Christ
 - Peace with God → desire peace with others
 - Rome became followers of Christ

- **Blessing of faith for the 21 Coptic Christians**
 - Wakeup call for the church
 - Should not be crippled by fear of external threats

“The blood of the martyrs is seed of the church.”

The Blessing of Faith

- **Blessing of faith for us**
 - **Peace with God and desire peace with others**
 - Not flinch at suffering, neither will we turn a deaf ear
 - **Boast in the hope of the glory of God**
 - Our character is formed to the likeness of God
 - **Assured of God's love**
 - Declare: "God's love is poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit that is given onto us."