

Romans 5:1-11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still *powerless*, Christ died for the *ungodly*. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still *sinners*, Christ died for us. ⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's *enemies*, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Introduction

In the late 1950's Melvin Endsley wrote and Guy Mitchell sang a hit song "Singing the Blues." Paul McCartney re-did the song in 1991. The refrain went "Without you, you got me singing the blues." While literally to sing the blues can mean to sing a sad style of music, it can also mean to feel sad, down, depressed.

What makes you "sing" the blues? Isn't it those things that make for a bad day? Some days it might be as simple as not being able to find your keys or your homework, having a flat tire on the way to work, not seeing the sun, or feeling that you're not on top of things but things are on top of you. On other days it might be something as serious as the death of someone close, job loss, depression or some other serious disease, or a substantial loss of resources.

How do you deal with the bad-day blues? Some drink, but that makes matters worse. Depending on what the cause, some stay busy with positive things while others cut back on activities because they are too busy for their own good. Some exercise while others try to relax. Some seek counseling and take medication. I even read that when you're having a bad day that leaves you singing the blues blow bubbles – it makes you feel like a kid again and if you're already a kid, it's still fun.

In God's word we are considering from Romans 5, God, through the Apostle Paul reveals some valuable things that help in dealing with the bad-day blues. In a sense God is saying to us....***Beat the Bad-day Blues ...***

1) ... Rejoice in the Peace of God, 2) Boast in the glory of God, and 3) Glory in Your Suffering

1. ...Rejoice in the Peace of God

What's the worst day you can think of having? The worst day one could ever have would be any day in hell. There would be pain and torment beyond our imagination. There would be nothing that brings relief or pleasure. There would only despair. This day has no end. No day could be worse.

This day is our deserved destiny. "*The wages of sin is death...(Rom 3:23)*" This is not just physical death but what Revelation 21 calls the second death in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. The sin with which we are born and that of which we are guilty makes us deserving of this. As St. Paul wrote to the Romans, "*There is no one righteous, not even one (Rom 3:10).*" If we lived life knowing that all we had to look forward to is such a destiny, this could and should have us singing the bad-day blues.

God enables us to beat the bad-day blues with these comforting words, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand (v.1-2).”* To be justified is to be declared innocent. There’s nothing wrong when the acquitted is innocent. But it is when the acquitted is guilty, isn’t something wrong? In verses 6-8 the apostle Paul uses descriptions like *“when we were still powerless ...ungodly ...sinners ...enemies.”* We were guilty. We deserved God’s wrath and punishment. But God declared us innocent.

Doesn’t that make God a judge who isn’t acting justly? God had to mete out punishment for our sin. God had to have payment for our sin. God had to have obedience to his law. But rather than giving to and getting from us, he made his Son, Jesus – the Christ - our substitute. Paul wrote, *“Christ died for the ungodly ...While we were still sinners Christ died for us.”* God gave our punishment to Jesus on the cross. God got payment for sin and obedience to his law from Jesus. In view of Jesus’ perfection and his death on the cross God justified us! Jesus’ resurrection is a promise of that. So Paul wrote, *“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life (v.9, 10)!”* The result of Christ dying for us and of God justifying us is that we have peace with God and are saved from his wrath.

This justification and the resulting peace become ours personally through the faith the Holy Spirit works in our hearts. And through faith we now have gained entrance to and stand in God’s grace. It’s like having access to and standing in a basement or storm shelter during a tornado or serious straight-line winds. You’re protected. You’re safe. Because of Jesus and the resulting justification he brought, you are protected from God’s wrath. You will never have to experience the worst day one could experience – the first day in hell. Therefore Paul wrote, *“We... rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have now received reconciliation (peace – v.11).”*

Remember that on your bad day when you’re feeling and singing the bad-day blues. It’s not because God is angry with you or getting even with you, you have peace with God. Remember this when you feel guilt. Remember this when you contemplate death. Remember this when you’re feeling worthless or other things aren’t going well. Beat the bad-day blues with the truth - you have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Board in the Glory of God

Also beat the bad-blues with the hope of the glory of heaven. Paul wrote, *“And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.”* What is Paul referring to when he writes of “the glory of God?” In the Old Testament that was the smoke and fire, thunder and lightening, shaking and quaking that signaled the Lord’s presence. In 2 Corinthians 3:18 Paul wrote that those who turn to the Lord reflect the Lord’s glory and are being transformed with ever increasing glory which comes from the Lord. But here Paul is talking about the glory of God we hope for. This is the glory of heaven. This is the glory our souls will enjoy should we die before Jesus comes. When we die our souls will leave our bodies and go to the glory of heaven where there are no problems, pressures, pains. When Jesus raises our bodies, he will glorify them and reunite them so that, as Paul wrote to the Philippians, *“they will be like his glorious body.”* If we haven’t died when Jesus comes again, he will glorify our bodies. They won’t age. They won’t become ill. They won’t become tired. They won’t get sick. We will have perfect bodies.

In the glory of heaven we won’t have to pay taxes or punch the clock. There will be no boredom. – only the fullness of joy and peace forevermore. We will see God – Father Son and Holy Spirit - in all their glory with their holy angels. We will be awed by the splendor of his majesty.

Several years ago when we were getting ready to visit our son and his family in Guanajuato, MX, Prof. Bases from MLC told me that he considered it the most beautiful city in Mexico and Central America. That made me eager to see that breath-taking beauty.

Far greater is the glory of heaven that awaits us. Paul wrote, *“I reckon that the sufferings of this present world are not worthy comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us (Rom 8:18).”* We haven’t seen that glory, but God promises it to us because of Jesus. When you have bad days that leave you feeling sad and singing the blues, rejoice in the glory of God that awaits you. This life with its problems will not go on forever. It will give way to life in the glory of God.

3. ...Glory in Your Suffering

When the bad days come, a key to beating the bad-day blues is remembering the blessings that God gives us during and through those bad days. Paul wrote, *“We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

“We rejoice in our suffering.” Would you put an “Amen” behind that? Many complain when they suffer. But rejoice? Doesn’t that sound kind of masochistic? (A masochist is a person who likes pain and suffering.)

Paul indicates that there are blessings that come out of our troubles – patience or endurance; a growth in Christian character; and hope. And hope doesn’t disappoint us because the God who put this hope in our hearts as poured out his love there, is a God who is faithful and won’t disappoint us.

Think of some trouble you have gone through in life more than once. Maybe the first time you encountered the trouble you didn’t know how you would make it. But somehow God got you through. When it happened a second time, you probably didn’t like it. But you knew that God enabled you to survive this trial once, therefore you were patient. You handled things in a more godly way. You had hope even though things were bad, because you knew God was there to get you through the last time and he would be there to get you through this time. So God was using the trials of life together with his word to help you grow in your Christian character.

Every student going to college and every parent of those students hope their son or daughter is offered a scholarship. Getting some kind of scholarship – not only is it helpful, it’s an honor.

In a way, when we go through trials God is giving us a scholarship to the college of spiritual growth. It’s a sign of his love. So when you go through the bad-days, rejoice the fact that God is blessing will get you through those days with his wisdom, power and love. Rejoice in the fact that God is helping you to grow in faith and Christian character. It will help you beat those bad-day blues.

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