

# THE ROAD TO PEACE

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ROMANS 5:1 • TV167B

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By  
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## THE ROAD TO PEACE

By Henry T. Mahan

### Romans 5:1

*“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

I am asking you to open your Bible with me today to the **Book of Romans**. I am going to speak from the **5<sup>th</sup>** chapter of the **Book of Romans, verse 1**, just a very brief verse of Scripture.

Our subject is: **“THE ROAD TO PEACE.”**

Everybody ought to be interested in this, how to find peace of heart and conscience, peace with God. We have the answer here in **Romans 5:1**. If you will look in your Bible and follow I will read **Romans the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, verse 1**: Paul says; *“Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Now, my friends; I say this, that before us today there is the most glorious doctrine to be found anywhere in the Bible, *“peace with God.”* I say that it is the most glorious doctrine to be found anywhere in God’s Word, *“peace with God.”*

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Entering into His rest; that is what it is all about. The Bible is a book of redemption, how God saves sinners through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The results of that justification, that salvation is to find peace with God. These are the questions that Job asked; *“how can he be clean that is born of a woman?”* Do you have the answer? Here it is:

*“How can man be just with God? Behold the moon it shineth not, the stars are not pure in his sight; how much more abominable and filthy is man that drinketh iniquity like the water.”*

This is what the disciples asked the Master; *“who then can be saved?”* Our Lord said, *“With men it is impossible. With God all things are possible.”* This is the question of questions, if we can find the answer; how to have peace with God. How to enter into His rest and have a quietness of heart and conscience as far as this matter of sin and salvation, heaven and hell, how to find peace with God?

I say this; we have before us the best news that a sinner can hear, *“therefore being justified, we have, (not going to have, do have right now), we have peace with God.”* For, when God justifies a sinner He takes him from under the condemnation of the law; *“there is therefore now, no condemnation, (no judgment), to them who are in Christ.”*

He not only takes him from under the condemnation of the law but he forgives all of his iniquities, past, present, and future. He said, *“I cast them behind my back. I cast them into the depths of the sea. I separate them from you as far as the east is from the west; I will remember them no more, no more.”* Now think about that!

Thirdly: He not only lifts us from the condemnation of sin, and not only forgives all of our iniquities, all of our sins, but restores us to divine favor, restores us to divine favor and gives us peace with God.

Now, my friend; listen to me, the road to peace, how to have peace with God? *“Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God.”* I am not talking about pretended peace.

I know Jeremiah said they cried, *“Peace, peace, when there is no peace.”* That’s not what I am talking about. I’m not talking about make-believe peace. Nothing is so fatal; I say this to you, nothing is as fatal as a false, religious refuge.

Nothing is as fatal as an empty profession of religion that just quiets your conscience and dulls your mind and makes your heart indifferent, only one day to hear Christ say; *“I never knew you, depart from me.”*

That’s not the kind of peace that I am talking about.

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You say you are at peace with God, my question is this; is God at peace with you? Is God reconciled to you; that's the question; *"therefore, being justified by faith we have peace (God's peace).*

I'm not talking about the peace of profession. I don't want to offend you; I wouldn't offend you for the world, but I do want to make you think.

You know, the Bible tells us *"to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith."* The Word of God tells us every time that we come to the Lord's Table to examine ourselves and then to eat. Peter says, *"Give diligence to make your calling and election sure."*

The **Book of Hebrews** is full of warnings to God's people. *"We are the partakers of Christ if we hold fast our profession firm to the end."*

I don't want to offend you know, I want you to listen to me. Too many people, when they talk about peace and a relationship with God, they want to go back to far, they want to go back to far.

They want to go back in the past to an old profession of religion which they made in the old country church during the summer revival time or the old time meeting or under an old brush harbor when they were about 12 years of age and they said, "I accepted Jesus when I was 12 years old or I was sprinkled when I was a baby or I was confirmed or catechized to joined the church."

Let me tell you something and let me be totally honest with you; I have been where you are and I know this; genuine repentance is not an isolated act. A man does not say "I repented." It's not "I repented" at all; it is "I am repenting."

If a man has ever felt the guilt of sin, the weight of sin, and the burden of sin, he not only did repent but he is repenting and he will repent. He not only has believed on Christ and received Christ, but right now he believes on Christ.

He will believe on Christ. He has come to Christ, he is coming to Christ and he will come to Christ. Salvation in the Scriptures is a living union with Christ. It is not a decision, it is not an isolated experience, and it is not a profession of faith that happened 30 years ago.

I warn you; if you have to go back 20 minutes to prove that you are saved, there is a problem somewhere. Christ lives in us now. I am not talking about a pretended peace, a presumptuous peace, or a peace of profession. I am talking about a living union with Christ that brings us to peace with God.

Remember this; it is vital and important. These two words in **Romans 5:1** cannot be separated, *"justified"* and *"peace."* Think about those two words. Let's read the text again, it says: *"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God."*

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That peace is based upon what, justification; that's right. You can't separate those two words. *"Therefore, being justified, then we have peace."* No man can have peace with God who is not justified; it is impossible.

No man can have peace with God who has not been forgiven, who has not been pardoned, and who has not had his sins put away. He cannot have peace with God; he is at war with God and God's at war with him.

No man can have peace with God who's not justified and all men who are justified have peace with God because they are justified, because they have no sin.

*"It's your sins that have separated you and God."* When the sin problem is taken care of, when the sin problem is finished, then there is peace, the war is over.

Here is an illustration: When God's own, well-beloved, only begotten Son, hung on the cross of Calvary bearing our sins in His body on the tree, the Scripture teaches, the Father deserted Him, the Father turned his back on Christ, why, because of the sins that He bore.

Almighty God cannot have fellowship with sin. Almighty God cannot look with favor upon sin. Almighty God cannot dwell with sin and that's what I am saying; you can't have any peace with God, it is impossible until your sins have been removed, until your sins have been paid for, until your sins have been pardoned, until your sins have been forgiven.

The Bible says, *"God is angry with the wicked."* The Bible says, *"God hateth the workers of iniquity."* The Bible says, *"Esau have I hated."* The Bible says, *"He that believeth not on the Son the wrath of God abideth on him."*

So, this cannot be separated. There is no peace with God. *"Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God."*

That's the basis on which the peace rests. That's the foundation on which it rests. That's the reason that God can be at peace with us, it is because we have no cause for anger, and we have no cause for wrath. God's wrath is against sin.

Somebody said one time, "There's no longer the sin question, it is a Son question." I beg your pardon; it is the sin question. Where sin has not been put away, where sin has not been paid for, where sin has not been pardoned, it is still the sin question.

Our Lord said, *"If you die in your sins you cannot come where I am. Your sins have separated you and your God. How can man be clean that's born of a woman? How can man be just with God?"*

That's the ringing question; how can I be justified? If I can find out how to be justified I can find out how to have peace. If I can find the road to justification, I can find the road to peace.

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Do you see what I am saying? *“Therefore, being justified, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

First of all: Justification is not by the law!

I know that; that can be ruled out. There’s no use in people coming and preaching “thou shalt not, thou shalt not, thou shalt not.” That won’t justify me before God. It says in the Scripture; *“By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified before God.”*

Now, that puts that aside. Let’s take the law and lay it aside. The law is a schoolmaster that brings us to Christ. The law is that which convicts us of our sins. The law cannot save; it cannot give righteousness.

It can expose the fact that we don’t have any righteousness. The law can shine the light of God’s holiness upon us and show our filth and guilt but it cannot cleanse us; it cannot atone for our sins. There is no justification in the law.

Secondly: Justification is not by works!

The Scripture plainly says, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy hath he saved us.”*

Abraham was not justified by works; that is what Paul said in Romans. If he were justified by works, *“he hath whereof to glory, but not before God.”* So, it is not by works.

Thirdly: Justification is not earned!

In **Romans chapter 3:24**, it says; *“Therefore, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.”* So, justification is not by the law, it’s not by works, and it is not earned, it is free.

Now watch this:

First of all: Justification is by God’s grace!

It is the gift of His grace. How is a man justified? What are we dealing with here, peace with God, how to have peace? You say, “Preacher, your subject is **“how to have peace,”** but what I am trying to tell you is this; you can’t have peace in a state of sin, in a state of unbelief, and in a state of rebellion; there is no way.

You can study how to win friends and influence people. You can study how to have a positive, mental, attitude. You can study “I’m ok, you’re ok.” You can go to these sessions where people sit around and try to give each other rest, peace, and quietness of spirit, but you can’t have peace with God until something is done about your sins. I can’t either.

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What does the word justify mean? It means just as if I had never sinned, it means being cleansed, pardoned, forgiven, all of my sins put away, all of my guilt put away, and holy before God in Christ.

That's justification! If I can find a road to justification then I can find the road to peace. *"Being justified by faith I will have peace."*

I will tell you this: justification is by God's grace.

Now listen to these Scriptures: *"Being freely justified by his grace."* **Ephesians 2: 8 and 9:** *"For by grace are you saved through faith."*

What is grace? It is God giving us what we don't deserve, what we don't earn. It is unmerited favor by God's grace. **Romans 6:23:** *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

So then, it is justification by grace!

Secondly: It's through Jesus Christ!

Look back at our text in **Romans 5:1:** *"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* In **Romans 3:24:** *"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ."* Then, **1 Peter 1:18:** *"We know that we are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from the vain conversation received by tradition from our fathers but with the precious blood of Christ."*

Are you with me? First of all: Justification is by God's grace, it is a free gift.

Salvation is not what I have done for God but what he has done for me.

Secondly: It's conferred upon us freely through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thirdly: It's by faith in Christ!

*"For by grace are you saved through faith: Without faith it is impossible to please God."* **Romans 5:1:** *"Being justified by faith."* **Romans 3:30:** *"Seeing it is one God who shall justify the circumcision (that is a Jew) by faith, and the uncircumcision (or the Gentile) by faith."* We are justified by faith.

If a man is justified before God in Christ, by faith freely, as the gift of God on the merits of His Son, he has peace with God. God looks with favor upon him and accepts him. God has fellowship with him. He has peace of heart and conscience. And, God's providence is so arranged that *"all things will work together for his good."*

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“Preacher, can you help me come to this place?” I believe I can if you are sincere, if you are interested, and if you will bow to the Word of God. I will give you some things that a sinner can do and a sinner must do if he comes to this place of justification or peace with God.

Now; here is what I say to all men; the road to peace is the road to justification and let’s remember that; would you listen and consider these things?

First of all: The sinner will plead guilty before God!

If you want to know the way to justification, if you want to know the way to peace, I say first of all; you will plead guilty, no strings attached, no reserve, guilty. The Scripture says in **Romans 3:19**: *“What the law saith it saith to them who are under the law that every mouth may be stopped and all the world become guilty before God.”*

Those are hard words to say aren’t they, *“guilty before God?”* But, those are three important words, *“guilty before God.”* When we are brought before the law of God we plead “guilty.” When we are brought before the judgment bar of God, we plead “guilty.”

When we are brought before the holiness of God, we plead “guilty.” When we are brought before the justice of God, we plead “guilty.” I mean *“to be guilty in one point of the law is to be guilty of the whole law.”*

Job said, *“If I justify myself, my own mouth would damn me, my own mouth would condemn me.”* Isaiah pleaded guilty, he said; *“woe is me, I am a man of unclean lips.”* Job pleaded guilty; he said, *“Lord; when I saw your holiness I hated myself; I am full of sin.”*

Peter pleaded guilty, he said; *“Lord, depart from me I am a sinful man.”* Paul pleaded guilty, he said; *“Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the chief.”*

Do you plead guilty? That’s the first place to start, offering no alibi, no excuse, just casting ourselves on the mercy of God, like the Publican in the temple *“who would not so much lift his eyes to heaven but smote upon his breast and cried, God be merciful to me the sinner.”* That’s the first thing, will you plead guilty?

Secondly: The sinner will not only plead guilty but he will (and this is the hardest thing now), he will justify God in his sentence against him.

He will take the side of God in His sentence. He will say, “Lord; you are right if you send me to hell I will get what I deserve.”

“That is tough preacher;” I know it is. David said this in **Psalms 51:3**: *“I acknowledge my transgressions. My sin is ever before me. Against thee and thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when you speak and clear when you judge.”*

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David said, *“I acknowledge my sin, my transgressions are ever before me,”* it is my sin against God, against God we have all sinned. When God speaks, when God judges, when God condemns, He is righteous, holy, and good.

Now, you will come to that place. You have to *“let God be true and every man a liar.”* I justify God in His anger, I justify God in His wrath, and I justify God in His condemnation. That is something that this generation won't do.

The God that they worship must love everybody. The God that they preach must not be angry. The God that they preach must not be righteous. He must not be holy and He must not have a judgment bar from which He casts men into outer darkness. They won't have anything to do with that God.

But, I am telling you this; when you come before the Lord of glory:

You will plead guilty! Christ died for sinners. He said, *“I didn't come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”*

You will justify God in His wrath; you will justify God in His anger. You will justify God in His divine sentence.

Now, I am telling you that; if you read the Bible you will find that to be true. David said, *“Who am I Lord and what is my house that you should bless me?”* All the way through the Scriptures you will find these men of broken hearts and humble spirits justifying God. David said, *“The heavens won't contain him, how much less the house that I built him.”*

Thirdly: The sinner will be confronted with the only substitute that God has provided, the Lord Jesus Christ!

It won't be many ways, many roads, many doctrines, or many plans, it will be one: *“I am the door; I am the way, the truth, and the life.”* I am the Saviour, the refuge, the only one. *“Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ Jesus. No other name under heaven given among men, whereby, we must be saved.”*

Moses saw Him and wrote of Him. Moses saw Him in type. Abraham saw Him. *“He rejoiced to see his day.”* He saw Him in picture. Simeon saw Him in the body of an infant and incarnate. He said, *“Mine eyes have seen thy salvation, I am ready to die.”*

The woman at the well saw Him in the flesh. She said, *“When the Messiah comes he will tell us all things.”* Christ said, *“I am he.”* The thief on the cross saw Him in his dying hour he cried; *“Lord, you are not going to stay dead, you are coming into a kingdom; remember me.”*

Thomas saw Him in His resurrected glory and fell at His feet and said, *“My Lord and my God.”* Stephen saw Him seated on the right hand of God. Paul saw Him on the road to Damascus, *“as one born out of a due time.”*



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My friend, I am going to tell you this; it's not in a vision at the foot of my bed and not in a dream some dark, rainy, cloudy, night. It's not in a whooped up feeling at some mourner's bench, but I have seen the Lord in His Word.

I've seen him as the Redeemer, as the Saviour, as a substitute, as a sin-offering, as the high priest, and as our atonement. I have seen Christ. I have been to Calvary and I have seen the Lord.

Some of you can say the same thing; "I have seen Christ, not with these eyes but with eyes of faith. I have heard Him but not with these ears but ears of faith. I have felt Him, not with these hands, like John and the other apostles, but I have felt Him in my heart, He has revealed Himself to me."

I have seen Him as my only hope, my only hope:

**"My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and his righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**Other refuge have I none,  
Hangs my helpless soul on thee."**

The sinner not only pleads guilty; he not only justifies God in His sentence, in His wrath against sin; He not only sees Christ as his only refuge, his only sin-offering, his only hope, his only Mediator.

*"There's only one God and one mediator between God and men, Christ."* Don't miss the way of the cross; that is the way that leads homeward.

Last of all: The sinner will receive Christ intelligently, and lovingly he will receive Christ!

I'm not talking about just believing a doctrine. I'm not talking about just making a decision. I'm not talking about joining the church or straightening up your life or quitting a few sins; I am talking about bowing to the sovereign claims of Christ, bowing to the royal claims of the King, receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Saviour.

It says, *"He was in the world and the world knew him not. He came unto his own and his own received him not: But, as many as received him, (not just the words about him, not just the things identified with him, not just his laws), but as many as received him."*

How do you receive Christ as your Redeemer, as your Lord, as your Saviour, as your husband, brother, friend, as your God, as all things, as your life? *"As many as received him to them gave he power (the right, the privilege) to become sons of God."*

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*“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

Paul said, *“Who is he that condemneth; it is Christ that died: Yea, rather, is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who ever liveth to make intercession for us.”*

Now, there may be some objections that will be raised. Let’s go back to the text, *“therefore, being justified by faith,”* sin is pardoned, sin is forgiven, and sin is put away by faith in Christ. I have received Him, I have pleaded guilty, I have acknowledged my transgressions, and I have looked to Christ only.

I have justified God in His divine sentence. I have received Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I have bowed to Him.

But preacher, “I don’t have peace, I don’t have peace. I don’t have peace with the devil; he just won’t leave me alone. I am so tempted and so tried.”

Hold on a minute! Look at that text again: It doesn’t say that we will have peace with the devil; it says, *“Therefore, being justified by faith we have peace with God.”*

I don’t ever in this world expect to have peace with him who is the disturber of Israel, him who is the accuser of the brethren, him who is a *“roaring lion going about to seek whom he may devour.”*

If he can lay hands on Peter, by God’s permission and on Job by God’s permission, the only thing that keeps him from laying hands on me and you is God Almighty’s permission. So, we are not expected to have peace with Satan but peace with God.

Somebody else said, “Well, I do believe; I trust Christ and I look to him alone.” I don’t have peace with my flesh. I have more struggles and conflicts and trouble with my flesh. Read the text again; it doesn’t say “therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with our flesh, it says, *“peace with God.”*

In the flesh you will have troubles, trials, sorrows, pain, and even death. God doesn’t promise you peace with the flesh. **Galatians 5:17** says, *“The flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh. You can’t do the things you would.”* I’m not talking about peace with the flesh.

Somebody else said, “I believe that I don’t have any peace with the world.” It doesn’t say that you will have peace with the world. Wicked men will condemn and cause trouble. It is peace with God.

Let’s get back: *“Therefore, being justified by faith, I have peace with God. Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.”*

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Let me warn you, don't seek the blessings; seek the Lord. Don't seek assurance; seek the Lord. Don't seek peace; seek Him: And being justified by faith in Christ you will have peace, you will have peace. But, when it comes there is a result of justification!