

PHANTOM FAITH

Romans 5:1-21

This is week 2 of 5 in the *Phantom Faith* sermon series. As you can tell from the sermons, this is a great time to invite non-Christian friends to hear and explore the gospel. Starting next weekend (October 3 & 4) there will be opportunities for people to make immediate decisions for salvation and baptism.

Last week, in Romans chapter 4, we learned how we relate to God by trusting in the finished work of Christ. In chapter 5 Paul begins to show us what that relationship will look like now that we have been reconciled to the Father.

Just like the father in the story of the prodigal son, God let us experience the consequences of our sin causing us to seek forgiveness. Like the son in this story we had nothing to offer the Father, but God came to us while we were far off and restored us. This is why Paul says “while we were enemies we were reconciled to God.” Because we can be justified through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross we can also live in the new way he has called us to!

The Main Point – Justification by faith in Jesus as our representative brings:

1. Peace with God
2. Access to God
3. Certainty we will live with God
4. Joy in Suffering

Sermon Response Questions:

1. In the sermon this weekend from Matthew 5, we saw that we all pursue something, and that which we pursue shows what we value. What do your calendar (time), money, and closest relationships say about what you are pursuing?

2. In what ways does your posture (attitude, feelings, and time investment) toward God determine how you are relating to God?

Bible Study Questions: Read Romans 5:1-21

3. What are the benefits of justification by faith Paul list in verses 1-2? Why are these considered beneficial to us?

4. In what two ways can we know that God loves us from verses 3-11?

5. How are Adam and Jesus similar and different in verses 12-21?

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Small Group Discussion Questions:

6. What do we need to remember and remind one another of when we suffer?

7. Why is it good news that God deals with us through a representative?

Prayer Guide:

Have everyone in your group pray specifically for one other member of your group, all at the same time. Pray:

- As we have gained access by faith into grace that we would be able to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God in every circumstance we encounter this week. (v. 2)
- Ask that we would grow in endurance, character, and hope through God's love that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (v. 3)
- Acknowledging one another's weaknesses and sinfulness, pray that we would love one another in our group knowing that Christ love and died for us while we were his enemies. (v. 6-11)
- Pray for one pastor at the Summit who you know (if you do not know any pastors, pray for pastor J.D.) that this very day they would rest and rejoice in their justification by faith. (v. 1)

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