

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

"Christ the Way"

Romans 5:2

INTRODUCTION

1. Romans is a book on God's method of declaring sinners righteous. The first 2½ chapters show the complete ruin of the human race. The next 1½ chapters record and illustrate God's redemptive work at Calvary. God now sees believers as justified, totally accepted in His sight.
2. Chapter five begins the final section of the book. It's all addressed to believers only. No wonder, then, that "therefore" starts v. 1. Justification is by God, grace, blood, resurrection, faith, words, and works. It results in peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. There is much more! Here is some of it:

1. ACCESS TO GOD

a. Negatively

It must be acknowledged that only through Christ is access possible. To those who have peace with God, access is possible (cf. Heb. 10:29; Jn 14:6). With peace comes access! There is no approach through other "mediators."

b. Positively

Access to God is a present possession. The verb "have" is a perfect tense noting have and still have it. Marvelous. The approach to God is a fact, not a hope. Think of it--access to the fullness of God. Whose fault is it if you are empty?

2. CHRIST THE WAY

a. Compared

A cursory study of anthropology reveals that every man has sought to establish contact with the supernatural. This is the explanation for the world-wide variety of approaches (e.g. men pray to wind, storm, animals, etc.).

b. Declared

Scripture declares God is reached only through the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 1). Right from the beginning, God taught this. Read it for yourself (Abel's sacrifice, Gen. 4; Israel's lamb, Ex. 12; Day of Atonement, Lev. 16; John the Baptist, Jn 1:29; cf. 1 Tim. 2:5).

c. Illustrated

Access under the law is really a pageant showing how to approach God. It taught that man could not come to God in his own way; he must come to God in His revealed

way. God modified the O.T. arrangement through the Cross (Mt. 27:51). Direct access for all to God is through the Person of Christ. We need no other. He alone is our access.

3. STANDING IN GRACE

a. A position

A true believer is one who deserves punishment as a sinner, but has been declared righteous because he has believed on the substitutionary death of Christ at Calvary which satisfied God's righteous demands for sin. Thus, a believer stands in the midst of a wicked world giving witness to the supernatural work of God in his life. Note the verb is perfect tense, hence an eternal position.

b. A belief

While some MSS do not include "faith" in the text, it does appear appropriate since it is God's way to receive His provisions. Obviously, it is all of grace, even the standing in grace. A relationship has been established, but it remains for the believer to enjoy what is already his. The position in grace--which God has opened to us in Christ-- is the arena out of which divine promises flow (Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 3:21-23). Let's possess our possessions.

CONCLUSION

Jesus Christ, God's Son is my access into the grace wherein I now stand--I need no other. Hallelujah.