

# The Parish of Wellow

## 'The perks of the job'

### Romans 5:1-11

### Passage, Sermon Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these sermon notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below.

## 1. Sermon Passage

### Romans 5:1-11

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

## 2. Sermon Notes

### The Letter to the Romans - Vital Statistics

#### PURPOSE:

To introduce Paul to the Romans and to give a sample of his message before he arrives in Rome.

#### AUTHOR:

Paul

#### TO WHOM WRITTEN:

The Christians in Rome and believers everywhere

#### DATE WRITTEN:

About AD57, from Corinth as Paul was preparing for his visit to Jerusalem

#### SETTING:

Apparently Paul had finished his work in the east, and he planned to visit Rome on his way to Spain after first bringing a collection to Jerusalem for the poor Christians there. The Roman church was mostly Gentile but also contained a great number of Jews.

#### KEY VERSE

'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' Romans 5:1

#### KEY PEOPLE

Paul, Phoebe

#### KEY PLACE

Rome

#### SPECIAL FEATURES

Paul wrote Romans as an organised and carefully presented statement of his faith- it does not have the form of a typical letter. He does however; spend considerable time greeting people in Rome at the end of the letter.

2.1 In Romans Chapter 5: 1-11 Paul points out the 'perks of the job' once we have been hired by God so to speak.

We gain:

- i. Peace with God (verse 1)
- ii. Access to grace (verse 2)
- iii. Christian Hope (verses 3-5)
- iv. Love of God (verses 6-8)

## 2.2 We gain Peace with God - 'We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (verse 1)

- Notice that Paul does not say here that we have the peace of God, but that we have peace with God.
- If we have peace, we must at one time have had the opposite, we must have been at war with God.
- How could this have happened -- to be God's adversary? - Paul says we inherited that position from Adam.
- Thus one of the major perks of 'being hired by God' is that we find ourselves no longer being God's enemy.

## 2.3 We gain access to grace - 'we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand' (verse 2)

- The word that is translated 'access' here can also mean 'admission'.
- We have gained admission says Paul into the throne room of God.
- The cost of our admission was great. We couldn't pay it on our own. We have access because of grace.
- Someone has defined grace brilliantly as:

God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

- Paul says that not only are we saved by grace but we are also kept by grace. We are kept from the evil one. We are kept holy. We are kept faithful. All of these are not by our own works.
- God gives us the grace in which we stand says Paul, the second major perk of being hired by God.

## 2.4 We gain Christian hope - 'we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.' (verse 3)

- There is a big difference between hope in the world and 'hope' in the life of Christians says Paul.
- For those who are not yet believers hope is just a shot in the dark. I hope I can make ends meet this month. I hope I don't get this virus that is going around. I hope I am going to go to heaven.
- But for the Christian hope is totally different. Hope says, "My God shall supply all my needs... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... seek first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you."
- Christian hope is knowing that whatever happens, Jesus is with us to deliver us through all our sufferings.
- That is why we can glory in our sufferings says Paul: 'we also rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.'
- For the world, suffering produces anger, frustration, distress and the results are often violence, drugs and suicide.
- But for the Christian who knows whose strength he stands in, suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character; and character produces hope. The longer we are in God's service, the more we realize that He is everything that He claims to be and that in Him there is nothing that we cannot do.

## 2.5 We gain the love of God - 'God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us.' (verse 8)

- Not only does God demonstrate his love for us by creating us in His image. He gives us the freedom to do whatever we chose. And then after we have totally botched everything up He still loves us so much that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- Not only has Jesus saved us from our sin but has given us the promise of eternal life.
- That is in direct opposition to what the world has to offer. All the pleasures that we could ever receive from this world are but temporal. If we try to understand God's love with un-spiritual minds, we could never understand why God would send His only Son to die in our place.
- Verse 7 indicates that rarely would a man die for someone who looks good on the surface and maybe they would die for one who is full of good works, maybe! But Christ died for us while we were sinners. He has commuted our death sentence. What a demonstration of undeserved love.

## 3. Questions to consider

3.1 Somebody says to you one day that they cannot understand what's so special about being a Christian? What would Paul's response be to this person? What would your response be?

3.2 How is it possible for us to 'rejoice in our sufferings'?

3.3 If God has demonstrated his love for us by pouring out his grace (God's Riches At Christ's Expense) what will our response be this week?

If you would like to discuss these questions further please feel free to call me on 01761 432293