**Peace with God (Romans 5:1-5)**

 A life under the rule of Jesus’ Resurrection enjoys peace with God.

 Greetings dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we bring to you today one of our foundational topics related to our Christian life. My prayer is that in this difficult and sometimes patience-demanding time, that the very peace that we recall today will have an even greater impact on our hearts and minds after this message. All of us know that God did something great through Christ’s death and resurrection. We have believed that what Jesus did completely turned on its head the previous spiritual “system”. Also, that the Old Testament laws were not only inappropriate anymore, but neither were they effective in their purpose (back when they were used). Those hundreds of laws were supposed to serve to cleanse the human conscience once and for all from the guilt of sin, but their effect was temporary. There was needed a final and lasting solution to the fallen state of humanity. Therefore, today we are going to talk about the peace that Jesus brought, which is one of the pillars of our faith. Again, I believe the Word of God says that a life under the rule of Jesus’ Resurrection enjoys peace with God. Let us speak then, about this precious and new (spiritual) reality.

 If you belong to Jesus, He himself has paid your debt to God; you have peace through Him. Indeed, it is strange to think about a time when people were at war with God. In truth, since the disobedience of Adam and Eve, we as human beings suffered from this ongoing war which we ourselves had started in the first place. As humanity, we decided to join the devil’s army and to fight against God’s pure love. We see the aftereffects of that decision ever since Adam’s days after disobeying. However, the Apostle Paul, while reminding his hearers of all the above in his letter to the Roman church, brought to them the example of Abraham in the previous fourth chapter before declaring the truth that we are talking about today, which is the peace that we have with God, through Jesus Christ. Since Abraham became an example for us by being justified through faith, and since God’s promise was received by faith then, today the follower of Jesus enjoys that justification by faith, and that faith causes the peace that was made with God to be palpable and enjoyable. When a human being is outside of Jesus, when he is far from Him and has not accepted Him as Lord and Savior, he does not have peace in his heart. Oh, would it be that people would put aside their worldly logic and begin to use the higher logic of faith in their lives!

 I once stumbled upon the following story: The trusted agent of a large firm had, in time of unusual expense, run past his allowance, and had taken company funds for a wrong use. He became distressed for fear he would be discovered and regarded as a criminal. Thinking to gain advice he disclosed his trouble to a fellow agent, who responded, "Oh, don't worry, I can cover that up for you!" "But you're not the man to cover it up," he replied, and he went straight to the head of the firm and explained everything to him. "You've made a serious mistake," said the man, "but I'll cover the discrepancy for you this time," and he wrote a check for the amount. "Ah, if you cover it, I am all right!" said the relieved man. When God forgives a man his sin, he finds a peace which he had never known before.

 Jesus has done the exact same thing for you and me, dear brother and sister. Ever since the days of Adam, we had a debt that we had been trying to cover – but we were going to this or that person, or we were trying to solve the problem through our own means. In the meantime, we were supposed to present ourselves before the true Head, to confess our sin, after which we would enjoy His peace which comes from forgiveness and reconciliation with Him. There, the issue would have been finished.

 And, praise the Lord, today if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, He has paid your entire spiritual debt off Himself (when you presented yourself to Him), because He was the now the Head of our whole existence. He was the “Head of the Company”, if we consider our life to be the “company”, so to speak. Therefore, let us enjoy the peace that we have with God today. We do not have a debt to pay to God anymore. Jesus has covered our debts for us. This is a reason for us to praise Him.

 So, do not be afraid if you commit a sin, because He that has wiped clean your entire slate of sin is faithful to cleanse you and reestablish you in His path. May the peace that we have with God become an opportunity for us to invite others to that same peace.

 If you belong to Jesus today, He Himself has paid off your spiritual debt, and you have peace with God through Him. A life under the rule of Jesus’ Resurrection enjoys peace with God.

 You do not have a debt with God, therefore – you are free! Now go and experience your life in Him. Amen.