

# Sermon Study Guide

Pastor: Warren Wiebe

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## THE MAIN THING:

Romans 5:1, 2 tells us that we are richer than we think. Because of what Christ has done for us, we can stand before God in full confidence despite any feelings that we may have to the contrary. We have been justified by faith, we have peace by faith and we have access to God by faith.

## PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. What is your definition for 'rich'?  
How rich do you consider yourself to be?

## PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. Tell of a time when you mixed up your facts and feelings in your Christian walk.
2. Pastor Warren mentioned how even Jesus at one time lacked spiritual confidence. (Luke 22:42-44; Mk 15:34) Share the names of other people in the Bible who also struggled with spiritual confidence.  
How did they overcome their feelings/emotions?  
What fact about God do their stories reveal to us?
3. Review the three 'riches' we 'have' because of our faith which gives us confidence when we stand before God. How can they impact our daily faith walk? What added understanding does Romans 8:1 bring?
4. a) When might a person lose the spiritual confidence these riches give?  
b) What steps might one take to regain one's spiritual confidence?

## PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community as you live out your calling*

1. What areas are you experiencing some lack of confidence in your spiritual walk? What steps do you need to take to nurture your growth?
2. Idea: Take a popsicle stick and write Romans 5:1, 2 to remind yourself of your standing with God. Plant/place the stick in a place where you can be reminded each day this next week.
3. Meditate on 1 Cor 2: 1-5 to increase your understanding of both the facts and feelings of your 'faith.'
4. What other Scriptures can you find that describe your position in Christ? (e.g. Eph 2:10 – God's workmanship; Rom 8:16-17 – God's children, heirs of God)

## THE WORD (NIV)

### Romans 5:1,2

Therefore, since we **have** been justified through faith, we **have** peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we **have** gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

### Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

### 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.<sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.<sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.<sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

# Sermon Study Summary

Pastor Warren began his message at the Saturday evening Worship Service with the story about a man who needed to cross a river that was covered with ice. The man was unsure about how solid the ice was and was filled with so much fear about crossing on the ice that he was almost paralyzed. Nevertheless, he cautiously began to cross the river. About half way across, he could hear the water rushing under the ice and his fear increased. He gingerly ran the rest of the way across the ice. He had just reached the safety of the shore when he heard a noise from the other side of the river. He turned around to see a man on a wagon pulled by a team of horses drive across the ice where he had just crossed and make it to the shore with no difficulty. As a result, when the man returned home, he made the same river crossing free from fear. The question becomes then, when was the man safer? The answer is that both crossings were equally safe but in the first instance, the man's feelings overshadowed the facts. This is a lot like us when it comes to our spiritual confidence. We have times when we wonder if God loves us, if He hears our prayers, if He has really forgiven us. Even Christ showed instances when his feelings impacted his spiritual confidence. (Luke 22:42-44)

In Romans 5:1, 2 Paul buoys up our spiritual confidence by empathizing what we have been given through our faith in Christ. We have been justified through faith. We have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Through faith we have gained access into God's grace. We are, in fact, richer than we think.

Pastor Warren defined 'faith' as Forsaking All, I Trust Him. To further illustrate what faith is, he also shared a story about when he was a little boy and had climbed a tree and was afraid to come back down. His father came and stood below him and said, "If you trust me, I will catch you." It was hard for the little boy to let go, but he had come to the end of his resources and so let himself fall into his father's arms. He had faith that his father would catch him.

The moment we exercise faith in Christ, something happens to us – God sees us as being justified. Justification by faith was foundational in the Protestant Reformation. When we are justified by faith, God no longer sees any wrong doing in us and holds no charges against us. It is just as if we had never sinned. To further illustrate this concept, Pastor Warren told the story of Donald Whiteside, a missionary who at one time was a terrible criminal. Donald had been convicted and put into prison. In prison, he came to know God and spent his time sharing the gospel with other prisoners. Queen Elizabeth heard about what he was doing and pardoned him which meant he was no longer considered guilty of a crime.

We have peace with God. God has thoughts of peace towards us; He is at peace with us. It is important to know and remember this so that if we have feelings that this peace is missing, we will not let those feelings erode our spiritual confidence. We need to remember that Jesus bore our condemnation on the cross.

Finally, we have gained access by faith into God's gift of grace. 'Grace' can be thought of as God's Riches At Christ's Expense. We have gained God's riches. We have gained His blessings and God welcomes us into His presence. In fact, He has literally thrown the door open to us and we can be confident of our position/standing in Him. We can stand before God with confidence. We can stand as a child of the King because of our position in Christ. If we have any feelings to the contrary, we need to remember that what God says is more important than how we feel. We need to put "our stake in the ground" and know just how rich we are.