

REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2014 MORNING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 31:6

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm 34:6

Confession of faith: Apostolic

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting

Amen.

After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 130:4

Law

Psalm: 130:4

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 147:5

Scripture reading: Romans 5

Scripture text: Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
(Romans 5:1)

What religious person is there that can honestly state that he has never been worried about his relationship with the Lord?! Every person wonders sometimes what will happen to him the day the Lord arrives to judge or punish his sins

The true believer knows that between him alone and the Lord there cannot be any means of peace.

- Because the Lord is angry about our sin and
- We remain disobedient, as we are unable to live good and properly.

The person having the ability of thinking straight realises that he plainly is a sinner. Therefore this passage of the Bible is extremely important and consoling because it focuses our faith onto God as God who justifies the ungodly people. (Romans 4:5, 25)

- 1. The great grace of God**
- 2. In the throne hall of God**

1. The great grace of God

To the eye it seems as a contradiction that the holy God worries about ungodly people, but it is not as it appears.

- In Romans 8:32 (compare Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:2, 25) it is written that God gave up His Son Jesus Christ to death in order of saving us.
- Consider it: The Lord Jesus Christ is handed over for the sakes of our sins and He arose for the sakes of our justification.
- This means that He takes us with Him from the dead into heaven (compare Romans 3:21 and Catechism Sunday 17)

You must note that Paul mostly refers to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ at the same time (compare Romans 8:34).

- The intention thereof is that the Bible wants to clearly put it that Christ worked for us full satisfaction and atonement with God.
- This is why Romans 5 starts with the statement that there is peace between God and us.

In the preceding passage the apostle already referred to the nature and contents of the faith, namely the gospel that God through Jesus Christ Justifies ungodly people.

- The theme he wants to bring home is that the gospel is a power of God to the maintenance of every believer.

He also tells exactly how it happened and in this teaching he joins to the same matters going through our thoughts and worrying us, namely what happens to the wrath of the Lord about my sins?

- He then shows that the wrath of God was revealed in Christ on the cross.
- This is not a matter you as a believer can just take notice as if is a matter disconnected from you.

When God had His Son die the Lord thereby clearly showed His feelings about sin and what He does about it – God punished Him for all sins present with us.

The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ should be to all people, capable of thought, a terrible warning regarding his own future should he not pray out of his heart to the Lord and want to convert himself from his sins.

- Of course only the Lord Jesus Christ could survive this punishment from God – that He was able to do because of the fact that He is God.
- But you must also keep in mind that He did so very limited, because He bore the punishment of God for those who believe in Him and worship and confess Him by heart.

Those people who worship the Lord Jesus have something that others do not have, namely the fruit of the faith: peace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The Bible does not say that you will first attain the relevant types of peace only when you first believe.
- It is stated there as a fact: we have peace.
- That means to say that we have peace in our relationship with God because He justified us through the faith.

This means that the Lord brought me back into a repaired relationship with Him.

- I no longer stand towards Him is the relationship of somebody who has to be destroyed because of all his evilness.
- Somebody who every moment think about the Lord filled with fear and terror!

This repair takes place through the Lord Jesus Christ – therefore it is He that makes the fruit of the repaired relationship with God the property of the believers.

- The Bible teaches that we have **access** to the grace we stand in.
- **Access** means that the Lord Jesus Christ attained it, and then gave it to us.

2. In the throne hall of God

The reading together of the words **access** to the grace and **standing** in the grace, reminds you that here it is thought about the access to the throne hall of the Lord and to then stand facing the throne of the Lord.

- This grace is thus a very heavy future perspective because it shows undoubtedly that we enter through the Lord Jesus Christ into the kingdom of God.

- The word **stand** underlines of course the solidness that we are installed into the salvation by the Lord Jesus and cannot fall out from it. (compare 1 Corinthians 15,: 2Corinthians 1:24)

The mat cannot be yanked from under our glory.

- The salvation stands solid and immovable in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It also stands just as solid against the cunning assaults by the devil because the grace we have is at a place the devil cannot reach as only those who live in the Lord Jesus Christ have free access to it.

The devil is not such a person and therefore he cannot reach us within the borders of this grace. If you could depict it widely we can say that he can only attack us should we go to his terrain.

That is not all!

- Our grace is also our guarantee in the glory of God!
- This is another place where the satan can no longer be.

You must carefully read what the Bible teaches here. There it is written that we also boast in the glory of God (compare 3:23).

- It reveals something about ourselves: we no longer are ungodly.
- The access to the grace by the Lord Jesus Christ finally changed us from our heart – so that our lifestyle no longer displays ungodliness.
- Our lifestyle now displays the glory of the Lord.

Then the Bible starts putting it clearly that glory is not only possible one you are in the hereafter.

- The glory in the Lord does not jump over the matters in time to first start with the Second Coming.
- There is something very important written here: The hope we have in the Lord Jesus Christ must also find image in our daily broken lives.

Therefore Paul writes that he also boasts in his oppression because he knows that a relationship exists between life-sultriness and the joy that you are saved in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The one is a test for the other because should you be able to pass through all your heartache with the knowledge that God justifies you,
- Then you do know that God did not give you over to the uselessness.

Paul's train of thought is clear:

- Who is justified and stands in the grace have the certainty that the Lord Jesus Christ cares for him in this life.
- Further he has the certainty that he, when he comes into the judgement of the Lord, will be absolved.

This is where oppression of tension fits into our lives.

- In this oppression he gets to know his own worthlessness and thereby he understands that he must be patient.
- It gives him the experience that you do not build in vain on the promises of God.

All these things teach the believer to look forward of entering into the glory of God – the glory guaranteed to him in the Lord Jesus Christ.

These are matters we hope upon.

- Hope does not here mean that now there is something we vaguely expect, something that could possibly happen or even not take place at all.
- This hope is a matter that will really take place and what has a foundation it stands upon.

This foundation also stands outside of my wishful thinking and even completely outside my power and abilities.

- This foundation is in the assurance of the Holy Spirit through the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The working of God the Holy Spirit in us is very important.

- The Holy Spirit was given to us to do a specific work: He pours out into our hearts the love of God.
- Thereby He installs in us the revelation that the Love of God towards us is so great that Jesus, through His death, atoned for us to God.

The Bible makes it clear that it here deals with God's love for us, and not our love for God.

- It is already written in verse 5 that God pours out His love into our hearts.
- In verse 6 it is re-affirmed.

How does it happen?

- The Holy Spirit directs the heart of the believer to the offer of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He lets the believer hope that the atonement of the Lord Jesus will sanctify him also.

Verse 5 said that the hope does not put to shame and now verse 6 tells why the hope does not put to shame.

- At the right time Christ gave his life for evil-doers.
- He died at a stage when the people realized how great their weakness in fact was and when he realized that he himself was unable to do anything at all about it as in his being he was wicked.

The word **wicked** describes me like the Lord sees me in relation to all the things I do wrong.

- The word indicates the great danger in which mankind, that do not worship God in his heart, is.
- God will destroy them because He destroys the wicked.

But then indeed there against the grace of God comes to the foreground: at the proper time the Lord Jesus Christ died for us who are by nature wicked.

Now we believing people can honestly say that we are not worried about our relationship with the Lord.

- We know what will happen the day the Lord will judge us.
- He will declare us righteous in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We will be installed upon the New Earth because we were justified from the faith.
- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm 128:4

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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