

## Romans: Verse-by-Verse

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Romans 5:1-2

### Students Notes

Prelude: Paul's Changes in Pronouns:

Chapter 1: First half: "I" Examples: "I am not ashamed of the gospel."  
Second half: "They".

Chapter 2: Primary pronoun is, "you" -- Examples: "You have no excuse" and "Now you, if you call yourself a Jew". (Moralizers)

Chapter 3: Paul reverts back to "they".

Chapter 4: The first person, plural: Abraham as 'the father of us all, and, "our father".

Chapter 5: The first person, plural: "we". Examples: "We have peace with God"; "We have gained access into grace".

Paul uses the "we" statements to identify himself with all who have been justified by faith -- whether Jewish or Gentile. As such, "We" becomes very important to this chapter.

- **Six Assertions:**

"Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."

The bulk of chapter 5: the benefits of that justification:

- **# 1: "We have peace with God".**

A reversal of relationships: Peace with God -- the complete opposite

of what Paul described in Romans 1:18: "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness..."

Humans who were previously in a state of rebellion against God have now been reconciled to Him by the death of Christ. See: Colossians 1:19-20

"... We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Two variant readings on this verse: 1. "We have peace with God" -- (peace as a current, present, possession. 2. "Let us have peace with God"-- (peace as something we must pursue).

Greek text: The difference between "we have" and "let us have" is a single letter. The pronunciation would have been practically identical; one would have a long "o" sound, while the other would have a short "o" sound. (Example: "omicron" or "omega")

Theologically: One version states peace is a current possession, while the other encourages us to obtain it.

Overall context: Paul is stating that we currently have peace with God as a result of Christ's actions -- not something we must obtain on our own.

The second assertion:

- **"We Are Standing In Grace"**

"Therefore, since we have been **justified through faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."

A literal translation: "Through him we have obtained our introduction into this grace in which we have taken our stand".

Grace is normally understood as God's free and unmerited favor, or his undeserved, unsolicited and unconditional love. In verse 2 it is our position of acceptance in Christ.

There are two things we should see here:

### **1. We Have Gained Access Into This Grace.**

This is a rarely used phrase in the New Testament and it is only penned by Paul. We can find similar usage only in Ephesians 2:18 and 3:12:

Some scholars suggest that a better translation than “access” would be “introduction”. The reason for this is that “access” might carry the suggestion that we enter grace by our own means, whereas, “introduction” suggests someone else has to give us an entrance pass.

A picture verse: 1. Someone being brought into the Temple to worship.  
2. Someone being brought into a king's audience chamber to be presented to him.

### **2. “We Have Taken Our Stand In This Grace”:**

Greek Image: Christ has given us access into grace. Once there, we take our stand in this grace. This is what ensures our position in Christ is current and constant.

The point: Through Christ we have been given an introduction into grace through faith. Once we step inside that grace, we take our stand. See: Romans 8:38-39

Most of us are familiar with the hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”. There is a powerful verse in Luther's hymn that says,

- **Next time: More of Paul's Assertions of “We”.**