

## The Divine Exchange - Romans 5:1-5 Our Benefits Package Part 2

Today we are in part 2 of a five week series called - The Divine Exchange

A) In Coming to Christ - we are the recipients of the greatest exchange in human History

B) But last week we noted some great garage sale finds that turned out to be a great exchange -

1) the Guy who paid \$45 for a box of glass negatives

C) Ended up being the lost works of Ansel Adams - Sold for \$2 million

Or the guy who paid \$5.00 for five sketches - that ended up being Sketches Andy Warhol did as a kid -

A) sold for a few million dollars

B) Giving new meaning to the term - one person's trash is another person's treasure.

Let me give you another example : This week I read an article - The 17 most amazing garage sale finds ever

A) A family in upstate NY picked up an antique bowl set at a garage sale for a few bucks

B) The Set sat in their living room for years -

1) until one day out of curiosity they decided to check the origin of these bowls

C) They discovered that the bowl set had been crafted by the Northern Song Dynasty

1) An Imperial Chinese Dynasty that ruled from 960-1279

D) So this bowl set they picked up was extremely rare - only a few existed

E) THAT BOWL SET was eventually sold to a London dealer \$2.25 million.

1) Talk about a great exchange

There was another story about a woman in Huntington Beach Ca -

A) who was getting rid of some old stuff - clothes - at a garage sale

B) She sold an old Jean Jacket for \$20.00 but later realized that she had hidden in the Jean Jacket -  
1) A pair of diamond earrings worth \$18,000, a diamond ring, worth thousands and \$1,500 in cash

C) Unfortunately the items were never returned - lesson learned - get a safe right?

D) But for the person who bought the jean jacket - that was quite a find

E) But listen: The greatest exchange ever - WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT- it wasn't a mistake.

God willingly gave his only begotten son Jesus to come to this earth to die on a cross to pay the price for the sins of the mankind.

A) And Jesus willingly left heaven - and volunteered to be the sacrifice - to take our sin, shame,

B) TO TAKE our pain and take our punishment upon himself

C) So that anyone who would put their faith and trust in his finished work upon the cross -  
1) His Resurrection from the dead

They could freely receive forgiveness - freely RECEIVE of his life- His righteousness -

A) His inheritance - His power - His privilege

B) That my friends is the Divine Exchange - the greatest exchange of all time

1) Sadly - many don't partake of the riches and blessing of that exchange

C) Some don't even realize the magnitude of the blessings that our ours in Christ

1) That is what we are talking about in this series

Once again today we find ourselves in Romans 5 -

A) This powerful passage where the Apostle Paul is outlining our connection to Christ.

B) How we are By faith - we have been brought out of Adam and placed into Christ.

C) We come into this relationship with God with a major deficit - because of our connection to Adam -  
1) Affected by sin - doomed and damned.

**D)But We are given incredible privilege and blessings - because of our new connection to Jesus.**

**E)Last week we referred to this as our Spiritual Benefits package in Christ**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

### **Our Spiritual benefits package in Christ.**

- **We have been Proclaimed righteous in Christ- Justified**
- **We have Peace with God.**
- **We have the Privilege of access to God.**
- **We have a Preview of our future. - This hope of glory.**

### **Our Spiritual benefits package in Christ.**

- **We have Purpose in our pain and suffering.**
- **We have Perfect love poured into us.**

**And that is just the start - it only grows as we get further into Romans 6, 7, 8 -**

**A)Focus over the next few weeks**

**B)Last week we looked at the First two - items in this package - We have been Proclaimed Righteous**

1)We go from being under condemnation - because of the guilt from our sin -

2)to being declared Righteous in God's eyes

**C)Covered in the righteousness of Christ - This is the Divine Exchange - this Great Exchange**

### **Benefit #2 We have Peace with God**

**A)Through our connection to Jesus - we go from being enemies of God and at war with God - **to being a peace with God.****

**B)We go from being Enemies to being family! - Again - another great exchange.**

**C)Today we are going to pick up with Benefit #3 We have the Privilege of Access to God.**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Here comes #3 <sup>2</sup>through whom Thru JC also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,**

**Have you ever felt like an outsider, and you really wanted to be an insider?**

**A)In school you were not a part of the cool kids group.**

**B)Or you weren't in the AP classes - with all the smart kids - AP = advanced placement**

**C)Maybe it wasn't school, it was work - you are the newbie at the company and it seems like all the "groups" have been formed**

1)You really feel like an outsider - wondering if you will ever fit in - in this new company -

**When I was in High School - I want to a school where white people were the minority. -**

**A)We made up only 10% of the school population**

**B)Predominantly - African American and Hispanic - and a large group of Samoans**

**C)So that meant that I was the only white guy on our schools Basketball team**

**C)To make matters worse - I grew up a beach kid - surfing - body boarding - I looked the part too.**

1)So I sort of stood out like a sore thumb amongst my teammates that had that inner city vibe going on.

**One year I desperately wanted to fit in and be accepted- so I started to dress like they did.**

**A)This was back in the day when Afros were in - so I grew my hair out - even picked it for a while.**

**B)I tried to walk like my teammates and emulate their cool street cred vibe -**

**C)But no matter what I did or how I played - nothing worked - I was still an outsider!**

**Imagine being an outsider when it comes to faith and connection with God!**

**A)The Bible tells us that God picked the Jewish people to be his Chosen people.**

B)Through them - God was going to bless the world with a Savior - **Jesus was Jewish.**

C)God set up an elaborate worship system for his people - -to live in relationship with him.

1)But it was a system marked by Distance

**Started with The Tabernacle that was set up when the Jewish people were traveling through the wilderness after Exodus from Egypt**

A)The Tabernacle was a tent - that sat in the middle of a courtyard that was surrounded by a fence.

**B)Inside the tent in the courtyard there were two rooms - first room was the Holy Place**

1)The priest would go daily offer prayers  
Burn incense

C)Beyond that room was another room called the Holy of Holies - This is where the glory of God dwelt

1)Only the High priest could go in there - only one day out of the year - day of atonement -

2)blood sprinkled on the mercy seat -

D)The sins of the people would be covered for a year.

E)The two rooms were separated by a veil - 60 feet high 30 feet wide -

1)According to Jewish rabbinic writings the veil was as thick as a man's hand -

2)4 inches thick - WALL of separation. - keep out

**Now in the Courtyard there was an altar - Sacrifices were made**

A)Brass washing bowl - priest would wash off the blood.

B)Now let's say you were a Gentile non Jewish person and you came riding up to this tent -

1)what is this ?

**Bb)You would be told - this is the Tabernacle - it is the place where - we meet with God**

1)You said - that is amazing - can I go in and meet him - NO

C)In fact only Jewish men could enter into the courtyard - only with a sacrifice - **only as far as the altar**

1)Ritual of placing your hand on the head of the animal - symbolic - **your sins were being transferred to an innocent animal - lamb - die in your place**

D)The innocent lamb was paying the price for your sins!

**This was the system that was set up - that the Jewish people lived with for over 500 years - until David got the idea to build God a temple**

A)It was a system of distance - but it was still better than the pagan deities of the world

B)Their gods - idols made of stone and wood - could not be known and were only to be feared.

C)Now in the temple - the set up was a little better

**In the Temple - there was actually an outer court called the court of the Gentiles -**

A)Gentiles could enter there to pray

B)Inside of that was the Court of the Women

**C)NEXT the court of Israel - for the Jewish men bring sacrifices**

D)Inside the temple itself were the two rooms - the Holy Place - and the Holy of Holies -

1)separated by the veil -

**The veil was so big 60 x 30 of woven material - 4 inches thick - it took 300 priest to hang it.**

A)But only the Priest could go into the HP -

B)only the High priest the HH and only once per year on the day of atonement

1)so radical - robe and bells -

C)Radical thing - this was their system of worship.

**Now to put this in our Modern day Vernacular - Our church building**

A)Outside the front doors would be the court of the Gentiles - Monitor out there - that is close as you could get.

B)The Lobby inside the doors - would be the court of the women

C)The Foyer - would be the court of the men - windows blacked out

D)The Sanctuary would be the Holy Place - and the Stage would be the Holy of holies

Imagine that is what your church experience consisted of.

A)Gentile - prayer outside - Women - prayer in the lobby -

B)Men Foyer - bring your offering to the priest (pastors) - watch him enter the HP

C)Only the High Priest once a year - HH -

D)That is what the worship system was like in Israel - Meet with God at a distance - 2,000 years

Again the whole system was set up to illustrate that God was Holy -

A)And that sinners could not DIRECTLY approach him

B)Only the High priest and only with the blood of an innocent lamb - could BE granted access into God's presence

1)ONCE A YEAR - Imagine that

C)But this system was also meant to illustrate the WONDER of what would change when Jesus -

1)THE LAMB of God ....world - came  
John - Behold the lamb ....world

You see everything changed the day that Jesus died on the cross!

A)Jesus died and cried out IT IS FINISHED - That Veil was ripped from top to bottom - OPEN HOUSE

B)JESUS took all our sin and shame and punishment upon himself

1)and we got an Access card with our name on it - Holy of Holies

C)This is what Paul means when he says we have Access by faith into this grace in which we stand,

Now, the word Access is used of somebody bringing somebody else into the presence of a KING!!

A)The Greek Scholar Kenneth Wuest said the word was used of a man who secured an audience with the king

B)And brought that man in, properly attired, before the king.

C)If you're going to have an audience with the king you have to dress right.

D)And so this man got the appointment because he knew the king

1)and then made sure that the man he was bring was clad in the right attire to stand before the king.

What a fitting description of what Jesus did for us.

A)He made a way for people - who's attire was dirty and marred because of sin - to be cleansed - and robed in his righteousness

B)This is the idea that Paul has in mind when he wrote in Ephesians 2:13,14 "Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation."

C)Jesus did that for us - He gives us Access to God.

But not just access - but privilege

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name. John 1:12

A)Right = Exousia in the Greek is a legal term that means giving the power authority and privilege to do something.

B)Put these two ideas together - telling us - We have the privilege and authority of coming into God's presence now as his kids -

C)Think of it this way: Besides my wife and I there are 4 other people who have a key to the front door of our home - my mom - and my 3 kids

1)Why? They are family

D)John is saying - we have been given the access card into God presence -

1)because we who have believed in Jesus are NOW family -

E)We are NOW sons and daughters of God

**And that is why the writer of Hebrews encourages us to NOT just come but to COME boldly**

<sup>14</sup> Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God..... <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16

**We are to come boldly - knowing that we are welcome -**

A)Knowing that Jesus our High Priest understands our struggles - He walked in our shoes

B)To Come boldly - also means to come with a sense of expectation!

1)What are we expecting ?

C)What is waiting for us at the throne of God -

1)Wrath - Judgment - condemnation ? Disdain because of our failures?

**D)No Grace and mercy - to help us in our time of need!**

**E)Paul calls it here in Romans 5 the Grace in which we stand = to STAND FIRMLY**

1)STAND SECURELY - stand in confidence - welcome

**Guys we are not to only to come boldly - but we are also to come daily!!**

A)We are told in Lamentations

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; **his mercies** never come to an end; they are **new every morning**; great is your faithfulness. 3:22-23 ESV

B)New every morning - you cannot wear out his mercies -

C)Come daily and you will never hear - NOT YOU - AGAIN.

**You can come - even if your clothes are a little dirty and muddy -**

A)Even if your life has been stained this week by failure - and sin

B)You can come - to receive grace and mercy to help in your time of need -

1)because his mercies are new every morning!

**Guys that is Glorious! That is amazing! It gets better**

A)We don't just come boldly - don't just come daily - or when we have needs

**Aa)we are to come to experience relationship with God**

God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord 1 Corinthians 1:9 ESV

B)Called into Fellowship= share in Common -

C)We share in common Jesus access - Jesus relationship with his father

1)Beloved Son - we are beloved sons and daughters

D)The Apostle John put it this way: *We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy. 1 John 1:1-4*

**E)John says - we are writing these things about Jesus - because we want everyone to experience the Joy of KNOWING GOD -**

1)THE JOY OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

**One of my favorite times of the week is Saturday afternoon -**

A)I usually try to finish my sermon prep for Sunday around noon -

**B)Then from noon until about 6pm - my grandson Josiah comes over - for what we call Boys day -**

1)park/ ice cream - yard work - tool store

**C)Now if Josiah only wanted to hang out W/ me so he could get ice cream - sad**

**D)He loves Boys day - be with Papi - I love that he loves that.**

1)He is six - so we don't have stimulating conversations yet - He is limited in his interest

**E)But I love being with him.**

**In a similar way: Our heavenly father who is so far beyond our comprehension and our limited knowledge and resources**

**A)Loves for you to be with him - Enjoys having you in his presence**

**B)He is not turned off by your needs - he is not burdened by your concerns and problems**

**C)In fact Peter tells us - He invites us to **Cast all our cares upon him because he cares for us.** – 1 Peter 5:7**

**D)Cast is demonstrative - Car story -**

**E)Have to leave the burdens with him**

**Access - Come Boldly - Come daily - Cast your burdens - Come and enjoy relationship!**

**Question: How many of you are regularly taking advantage of this privilege of Access?**

**A)Coming daily for relationship? Coming to confess sins and receive forgiveness?**

**B)Taking advantage of that his mercies are new....**

**C)How many of you are coming - Bringing your needs and laying down your burdens -**

1)rather than carrying them

**D)How many of you are coming - boldly to receive - Grace for your daily needs?**

**E)I wonder how many of our lives are like those bowls that sat in the living room of that house in NYC for years?**

1)There was a wealth attached to those bowls - that just needed to be tapped into and appropriated.

**Have you appropriated the Access to God and his grace and mercy that is available to you through Jesus?**

**A)Have you entered into the relationship that with God that is available to you because Jesus opened the door - Veil was rent/**

**B)Are you still an outsider - when you could be an insider? -**

**C)Become and insider today - Faith in Jesus**

1)Turn to him -

**D)Are you and insider who is acting like an outsider**

**E) I pray that changes for you today. - New way of living**