

## Sequences of Redemption #2

### God's Eternal Plan

The last time, we looked at the “sequence” in Rom. 8:28-30: foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification, all of which work together so that we will be conformed to the image of Christ. These are all actions of God from eternity past to eternity future. We will now proceed to look at some sequences that have to do with the here-and-now, with our walk as pilgrims in this world.

It is interesting that back in chapter 5:1-5, Paul inserts a few extra steps between justification and glorification, some having to do with our relationship to God, and some dealing with the practical results of this relationship.

### Our Relationship to God

**Rom. 5:1-2** – “Therefore being **justified** by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of **the glory of God**.”

- Foreknowledge
- Predestination
- Calling
- Justification by faith
- **Peace with God (through our Lord Jesus Christ)**

We used to be ungodly and enemies of God, but now are reconciled to (at peace with) God.

Rom. 5:6-11 – “... But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

Col. 1:20- – “And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.”

Eph. 2:11-14 – “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” But now we are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ... For he is our peace”.

- **Access to God (by faith, into a condition of grace)**

Eph. 2:17-18 – “And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

Heb. 10:19-22 – “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus ... Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Jn. 16:23-27 – “And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. ... At that day ye shall ask in my name; and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.”

➤ **Rejoicing in hope**

We have a living hope (a real expectation, not a mere wish) that we will one day see and be with Jesus in his glorified state, living in eternal enjoyment of the presence and glory of God. This allows us to live in rejoicing now. God wants us to be a rejoicing people, even in the midst of a life of trials and tribulations. What does it say of our faith and God's grace, if we live in doubt and desperation, despondency and depression?

Dt. 28 lists the blessings and curses of the law: blessings upon obedience, and curses upon disobedience. Besides the idolatry of worshipping other gods, and other forms of disobedience to the law, one of the causes of cursing on Israel was said to be

Dt. 28:47 – "Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things."

God did not want simple compliance, or passive, grudging obedience, but a people who would joy in serving God.

Neh. 8:10 – "... for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

1 Thess. 5:16 – "Rejoice evermore."

What if you don't feel joyful? What if everything seems to be falling apart all around you?

Hab. 3:17-19 – "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; Yet will I rejoice in the Lord. I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength ..."

- Glorification (our future experience of the glory of God)

So between our justification and glorification, we experience peace with God, direct access to the Father, and a joyful heart.

In the future we will look at Rom. 5:3-5 and 2 P. 1:5-9.

This lesson and most of my previous lesson notes and audio recordings are available at <https://hnslack.wixsite.com/mysite>. Although it is possible to access it on a cell phone, it is definitely easier to navigate and read on a computer screen. It is possible to have the notes open in one window while listening to the recording in another window.