**“Grace – Past, Present, & Future”**

Going deeper in Romans 5:1-11

**INTRODUCTION** The Apostle Paul has just finished showing how salvation by faith through grace alone has always been the route into life with God. He used Abraham as an example of this.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 Since we have been declared right with God by faith we are at peace with God as we were designed to be. This is through the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 By faith through grace a door has been thrown open. We now stand inside with overwhelming joy because of the hope of the glory of God that has been given to us. 3 Not only that, but we continue to shout praise even when we have troubles because we know that our troubles can produce passionate patience 4 and patience produces rock solid integrity and integrity produces hope 5 and hope does not disappoint us because the love of God has been generously poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was freely given to us. 6 For at just the right time while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Only rarely will someone die for someone else, even a righteous person. Someone who is good and noble might make this kind selfless sacrifice. 8 But God clearly demonstrated his own love for us by dying for us while we were utterly useless to him. 9 Now that we have been declared right with God by means of this sacrificial death there is no longer any question about the wrath of God because we have been saved through him. 10 For while we were actively opposed to God and his purposes we were reconciled to God through the sacrificial death of his son. But it is not only that! Because we have been reconciled to God we will be saved by his life 11 And not only that, we are joyfully living in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have received this reconciliation.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think the Apostle Paul means by to be “at peace with God?”

2. What is the “door” that has been thrown open to us?

3. Now that we are at peace with God does that mean we will not experience trials and tribulation?

4. According to verse 3-5 what can happen in the hard times? How do we help one another grow in this?

5. What does it tell you about the nature of God that he would die for you when you were opposed to him and his purposes?

6. How does grace effect your past, present, and future?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus Christ for dying for you while you were opposed to him and his purposes.

\*Praise the Lord for giving you free access into life with him.

\*Ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit so you can live with his peace and joy today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ covers your past, present, and future. As you trust in Jesus there will still be times of trials in your life. When you encounter times of trial will you rely on his life at work in you to produce passionate patience, rock solid integrity, and hope? How will his grace make a difference in how you live this week?