



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	The Peace with God	SPEAKER	Elder Goh Hock Chye
THEME	The Righteousness of God	DATE	17 & 18 Oct 2026

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

While many seek peace through external achievements or circumstances, true rest is found only through a restored relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This divine reconciliation grants us lasting peace, anchoring believers to stand secure in grace, suffer strong in hope, and live free in Christ.

THE PEACE WITH GOD

1. STAND SECURE IN GRACE (ROMANS 5:1–2)

Our standing before God begins with the assurance that we are justified by faith, not by our personal performance. Justification means that the Judge has declared us as free of guilt because Jesus paid our penalty on the cross. We should never treat our relationship with God like a scale, measuring our spiritual weight based on our performance. When we believe in Christ, we are officially adopted by God; we belong permanently to His family and cannot be un-adopted for making a mistake.

Furthermore, this grace grants us direct access into the Father's presence. Believers have bold, unrestricted access to God through Christ. Grace is not merely the entry door into salvation; it is the solid floor upon which we stand every day as we look forward in hope to God's glorious future. Because our security is rooted only in Christ's finished work, we serve God out of love and gratitude rather than fear. We ask Him to help us live not to earn His love, but because we already have it.

2. SUFFER STRONG IN HOPE (ROMANS 5:3–11)

Having peace with God does not guarantee a trouble-free life. The Greek word for suffering (*thlipsi*) refers to being crushed or pressed under heavy pressure. However, we are assured that we will face our sufferings as God's children rather than His enemies. He shapes our character through them as suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character strengthens our hope.

God uses adversity to strengthen our spiritual roots, inviting us to maintain a soft, yieldable posture rather than a hardened heart. As Scottish pastor Samuel Rutherford wrote during his exile, "When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wine". Our hope never disappoints because God's love is poured into our hearts internally by the Holy Spirit and proven externally at the Cross. Therefore, while hope does not deny suffering, it says that suffering does not get the last word.

3. LIVE FREE IN CHRIST (ROMANS 5:12–21)

Finally, peace with God empowers believers to live in complete freedom under the reign of grace. Paul contrasts Adam and Christ as two representative heads of humanity: Adam's single act of disobedience brought sin, condemnation, and death, whereas Christ's single act of obedience brought righteousness, justification, and eternal life. It is like a family whose ancestor gambled away their entire land title, leaving descendants in poverty; Christ is the wealthy relative who not only paid off the ancestral debt but purchased back the land with additional property, restoring far more than Adam ever lost.

While the Law exposes our spiritual brokenness without the power to heal it, God's grace superabounds over our sin (v20). Believing in Christ transfers us into a new kingdom whereby grace reigns through righteousness. Martin Luther summarized this new identity by stating that a Christian is a perfectly free lord subject to none, yet a perfectly dutiful servant subject to all. We should stop hiding under old guilt, drop our self-efforts, and walk fully in the freedom and grace that Christ has already secured for us.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, true peace with God is not a fragile reward earned through human performance, but an unshakeable status anchored in the finished work of Jesus Christ. As we stand secure in His grace, even life's heaviest trials become intentional tools that refine our character and deepen our hope instead of shaking our foundation. As believers, embracing this gospel truth frees us from the shadow of past guilt so that we can walk confidently under the superabounding reign of God's love.

QUESTIONS

1. Share about a time when you failed or made a mistake. How did you feel about yourself afterwards, and how did you respond to the situation?

2. How can adopting a soft and teachable posture change the way you think and act during the times you face difficulties and trials?

3. Share an area of your life where you find it difficult to let go of the past or tend to compare yourself with others. What is one step you can take to embrace your new identity in Christ and live in the fullness of His grace?