

## Blessings Accompanying Justification By Faith

(Romans 5:1-11)

Intro: Paul, you will recall, is writing to inform these Roman Christians about the gospel, the good news that God has provided justification for sinful men through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. He has shown that all men are sinners and stand condemned before God (1:18–3:20). **But God** has graciously provided justification—*declared us right with Himself*—as a free gift of His grace through faith in the redemption accomplished by Christ Jesus on the cross (Rom. 3:21-26). In Romans 4, Paul demonstrated that Abraham’s righteous standing before God was a free gift of His grace not derived from good works, obedience to the Law, or circumcision. Abraham’s justification was by grace through faith in God alone. He simply believed God, and it was reckoned unto him as righteousness (4:3).

Paul continues in Romans chapter 5 by discussing the blessings or benefits that we have as believers in Jesus Christ. This chapter is divisible into two major sections: I. The blessings of our justification (vv. 1-11), and II. The basis of our justification (vv. 12-21).

### I. The Blessings Of Our Justification (Rom. 5:1-11)

Paul is going to explain in these first eleven verses of chapter 5 that when God declared us righteous in Jesus Christ, He gave us four spiritual blessings: peace, hope, love, and assurance. The first is peace with God, Rom. 5, verse 1

#### A. Peace with God (v. 1)

v. 1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

The first clause in this verse, “Therefore having been justified by faith,” sums up the entire first four chapters of this book. This is what Paul has been talking about since the book opened, *justification by faith alone*. Believers have been justified, *declared righteous by God*, not on the basis of doing good deeds, not by keeping religious ordinances, not by obeying the Law, not by being circumcised, but by faith in the finished work of Christ at Calvary.

“Therefore having been justified by faith, **we have** peace with God through

our Lord Jesus Christ.”

***Peace with God*** refers to the new relationship that exists between God and the believer who turns to Him in faith. Prior to coming to Christ we were enemies of God (Rom. 5:10). The Bible pictures man as alienated from God because of sin: **Romans 3:23**—“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Paul says, when a person places their faith in Jesus Christ the separation and enmity that existed between them and God because of their sin is removed. The hostility that existed previously is done away with. God lovingly draws believers to Himself, and binds us together in a new relationship of acceptance and love. Just think of it, Almighty God has made us His friends. We have peace with God!

Peace with God provides believers with access into His presence (v. 2a)

v. 2—through whom, also we have obtained our introduction/access by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ not only provides believers peace with God, it also provides us with access to God. This grace in which we stand and in which we rejoice, refers to this new position of peace with God. Christ has not only removed the enmity that existed between sinners and God, He has made it possible for redeemed sinners to have access into the very presence of God.

The word *access* refers to the privilege of approaching someone of high rank or position. Do you recall in the Book of Esther how no one could approach the king without an invitation or appointment. Esther said, “To approach the king unannounced was punishable by death, unless he held out his golden scepter to her.” King Ahasuerus did in fact grant Esther access by holding out his golden scepter to her. In the same way God has granted us access into His presence through His Son Jesus Christ, who is our scepter of righteousness.

Interestingly, the Jews’ access to God was restricted by the veil in the temple; and the Gentiles’ access to God was blocked by a wall of partition the Jews’ had erected in the temple courtyard. The partition contained a warning that any Gentile who went beyond the wall would be killed. However, when Jesus died, God tore the veil in the Temple from top to bottom (Luke 23:45) and demolished the wall of partition that blocked access to Him (Eph. 2:14). Through the grace of God, believing Jews and Gentiles now enjoy full access

to God.

The fact that Jesus Christ has provided believers with peace and access to Almighty God should cause them to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. The second benefit derived from our justification is hope, vv. 2b-5

## B. Hope in God (vv. 2b-5)

### 1. Hope in the glory of God (v. 2b)

v. 2b—and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

This word for *rejoice* is one of the strongest words for rejoicing in the Greek language. It expresses a jubilant, exultant, outpouring of joy. Like a crowd cheering on their team, or a parent's joy when their child hits a homerun or scores a touch-down. In the same way, believers rejoice in the prospect of attaining the glory of God. The glory of God is the manifestation of His divine nature: His character, essential power, and external appearance. The greatest revelation of God's glory was in His Son Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:3 says, "That Jesus Christ is the brightness or outshining of God's glory. He is the outward expression of God's glory. John said, "And the Word, became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). And, since we are being conformed to Christ's image (Col. 3:10-11), our hope is that when Christ appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see him just as He is (1 John 3:2).

What Paul is talking about here is, that as believers, we rejoice because the very character of the Lord Jesus Christ will be fully expressed in our lives because we shall be like Him. That's glory my friends. Cranfield explains the "illumination of man's whole being by the radiance of God's divine glory which is man's true destiny but which was lost through sin, will be restored . . . when man's redemption is finally consummated at the return of our Lord Jesus Christ (Cranfield, *Romans*, 1:260).

Not only do we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, but we also rejoice in our tribulations because we know they will produce hope (vv. 3-5).

### 2. Hope in our tribulations (vv. 3-4)

vv. 3-4—And not only this, but we also rejoice in our tribulations, knowing

that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

This passage is very similar to James 1:2-3—“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The reason Christians can rejoice in the midst of suffering is because *we know* that God uses trials to build character in our lives. Look at the progression here in verses 3-4—tribulations—perseverance—proven character—hope.

1. tribulations—refers to the afflictions, distresses, and pressures that come into all of our lives. Be it marital problems, finances, kids, neighbors, loss of job, poor health, you name it. All of us go through difficulties. In spite of the various trials and tribulations we face as believers, we can make it through because *we know* that whatever God has allowed to come into our lives is for our ultimate good. Do you remember what Elihu advised Job? He told Job not to demand a meeting with God, but to trust Him to deliver him in His own time.
2. perseverance/patience—Paul explains that trials are actually designed to help us develop perseverance or patience. As we encounter difficulties we learn to trust in God, who gives us the ability to remain stable during times of testing. For me personally, **I cling to Romans 8:28**, “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Just remember, God is sovereign and He has a purpose for allowing you to suffer whatever it is you are going through. In fact, Paul tells us that perseverance in suffering results in proven character.
3. proven character—Is the spiritual fruit that comes from our trials. This term *proven character* means a tested and proven character. It was used in the metal refining process where the impurities were burned off in order to produce pure and valuable metal. In much the same way God uses trials to burn the impurities out of our lives, which leaves us with a sense of being genuinely approved. That’s godly character. Perseverance produces the character of Christ in us. Trials are designed to help us grow and mature in our knowledge of God and in our faith. The final outcome of our trib-

ulations and trials is hope.

4. hope—trials produce confidence in God. This word *hope* in the Scripture is the sure and certain expectation that God will see us through. It is the unflinching confidence that God will bring us through each and every difficulty we face. In addition, God uses trials to prepare us for greater usefulness in this life, and to shape us up for eternity.

The reason our hope in God remains steadfast is because He floods our hearts with His love through the Holy Spirit, vv. 5-8

### C. The love of God (vv. 5-8)

5 and hope does not disappoint, [why] because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The reason we believers can be absolutely certain that our hope will never be disappointed, and that we will enter God's presence and will be glorified, is because Almighty God loves us. God's holy Spirit, who enters our lives through faith, is constantly working in our hearts. Paul visualizes us believers as containers into which God pours His love that comes in the Person of the Holy Spirit, who enters the life of every believer at the moment of salvation. Let this sink in for a moment. God has poured out His love within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

If you have any doubt about God's love for you consider this, verse 6

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

God's love for us is demonstrated in the greatest degree by the death of His Son. Paul says, God reached out to us in sacrificial love while we were helpless, incapable of doing anything right or pleasing to Him. God sent His beloved Son to die for us, ungodly sinners though we were.

7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. Paul's point here is that very few people would die for someone else. Look at the contrast in v. 8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. The extent of God's love is shown toward us in

the fact that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. This is the heart of the gospel. God was willing to punish His own beloved Son in our place, and His Son was willing to bear that punishment for us. That's love. In view of so great a love, believers can be confident in their hope that God is going to bring us home to glory.

Our justification has provided us peace, love, hope, and assurance, vv. 9-11

#### D. Assurance (vv. 9-11)

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the *wrath of God* through Him. [Rom 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10].

Paul introduces a form of argument that moves from the harder to the lesser. The fact that God has justified us through Christ's death, ***the harder thing***, assures us that He will certainly do ***the easier thing***, save us from His *wrath*.

Since God sent His Son to Calvary to die in our place while we were sinners, surely now that we are His friends, and declared to be righteous in His sight, He will deliver us from His eternal wrath. We shall be saved from God's wrath through Christ. **Hallelujah, what a Savior!**

By the way, this is the first of four New Testament passages that assure believers that we will never suffer the wrath of God. This promise is repeated in 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and 5:9; and Revelation 3:10. While these passages certainly promise believers they will be delivered from God's wrath at the Great White Throne Judgment; I also used them to also support the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church. Since the Seven Year Tribulation will be a time when God pours out His wrath upon a Christ-rejecting world, believers will not be here because we are assured that we will be saved from the wrath of God because of our justification in Christ.

In addition, according to 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9, Satan cannot bring forth the man of lawlessness, the antichrist, until the Restrainer is taken out of the way. I understand the Restrainer to be a reference to the Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer. The Holy Spirit's removal is a reference to the Pre-tribulation-Rapture of the Church to meet Christ on the clouds of heaven.

In any event, these verses make it clear that believers shall be saved from the *wrath of God* through or because of their faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul presents an additional argument which moves from the *harder thing* to the *easier* in the next verse. Listen to his argument in v, 10,

10 Since God did the *harder thing*, reconciled us to Himself through the death of His Son, while we were yet enemies; how much more, will He do the *easier thing* of bringing us safely home to glory through His living Son.

The power and life of Jesus Christ, mediated by the indwelling Holy Spirit, assures every believer that God will bring us through every trial, deliver us from His wrath, and bring us safely home to heaven.

The reconciliation mentioned here in verse 10, that God has provided for believers through the death of His Son, takes us back to where this paragraph began in verse 1. We now have peace with God, cessation of hostility and full access to the Father, because of our faith in the death burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Paul concludes in verse 11 that God's tremendous love, which has provided for our reconciliation through Jesus Christ, should cause us to rejoice.

11 And not only this, but we also rejoice/exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The fact that our eternity in heaven is assured, should cause us to break forth in triumphant, confident, jubilant, boasting, rejoicing, and praising of God for sending His Son, Jesus Christ to reconcile us to Himself. God has reconciled us to Himself, and made us His friends. Our eternity in heaven with Him has been assured to us out of His loving grace.

Conclusion:

Justification by the grace of God, through the reconciliation Christ has provided for believers, has provided believers with four spiritual blessings: peace, hope, love, and assurance. The only question you need to answer is have you trusted in Christ alone for your salvation? Have you come to Him and asked Him to forgive you of your sin, and to come into your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit? If you have any question about this, invite Jesus to come into your heart as I close in prayer.