

SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

In The Grip of God's Grace

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

Romans 5:1-4 - "The Blessing of Our Justification"

Romans 5:1-4, *"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. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:."*

Paul has made it very clear at this point, in his letter to the Romans, that God saves, or justifies the ungodly by faith; not by works; not by rites; not by the law. But by Faith!

The question that now needs to be asked is this:

- A) What are the results, benefits, or blessings of being justified by faith?
- B) Can we be sure that it will last?

Paul answers these questions by explaining two basic truths:

- The blessings of our justification (5:1-11)
- The basis for our justification (5:12-21)

We look first at justifications blessing (Romans 5:1-11)

These verses are remarkable for several reasons:

1. They are hymn-like in their exalted language. Paul states the believers blessings in a chain of confident assertions.
2. Understanding them will deepen your joy, they are contagious with optimism.
3. Paul's words now switch to the first person plural; this is his experience along with all true believers.

Notice:

- (vs. 1) *we have*
- (vs. 2) *we have*
- (vs. 2) *we stand*

In verse one we find the word, “therefore” – Romans is a book of logic, therefore we have there fore’s (Romans 4:25-5:1)

(vs. 1) Literally, *Therefore having been justified by faith* is an aorist participle in Greek. The time of action is in the past. The voice is passive. So what Paul is saying is that at some point in the past, without our help, God justified us. He declared us righteous and began to treat us as righteous.

Then, he lists the blessings, “we have”:

1. Peace with God (vs. 1)

Romans 5:1, “...*we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*”

- a. It’s a military metaphor
- b. Before we are justified we are at war with God (Romans 5:10; 8:7)
- c. Colossians 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.*”
- d. We must surrender – stop fighting, stop running, stop hiding from God.
- e. The moment we do surrender we are justified and reconciled.
- f. We have (vs. 1) – so it’s a present possession. It’s not “let us have, it’s, ”we have!”
- g. It’s peace **with** God, not the peace of God.

The peace with God is an objective fact!

The peace of God is a subjective experience.

Philippians 4:7, “... *the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*”

- h. Peace with God must come first before you can experience the peace of God.
- i. Its only through our Lord Jesus Christ (vs. 1) – He’s the only mediator!

2. We have Access to God (vs. 2)

Romans 5:2, “*By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, ...*”

- The unsaved person not only is at war with God, they have no open access to God because then have no standing before Him!
- The justified person has both peace with God and open access to Him through Jesus Christ.

When Jesus died the veil was rent in two!

a) It's direct access – through Jesus Christ

I can't get into the white house with out an invitation and escort.

b) It's intimate – 'Abba Father' – adoption as sons!

c) It's continuous access – anytime, anyplace

d) It's by faith into this grace

e) It's wherein we stand

We stand before God by grace

Standing in grace brings peace.

3. We have the joyful hope of heaven (vs. 2)

Romans 5:2, "*... and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*"

This is something the unsaved person does not have – they have a false hope.

Christians have the hope of heaven!

'Hope', in the New Testament means it's sure – we rejoice – it's to boast in the sense of jubilation.

Before salvation we fell short of God's glory but now, we rejoice in it.

The world has no hope beyond the grave, but we rejoice in our coming glory.

Romans 8:29-30, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

Everything that now keeps us from being what God wants us to be will be gone forever – the land of no mores.

Colossians 3

Not just a future destination, it's a present motivation.

4. We rejoice in tribulations (vs. 3-4)

Romans 5:3-4, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:"

To rejoice in something as positive as heaven seems quite natural, but to exalt in tribulation, that would have to be supernatural.

It's something the natural man can not do!

Justification is not just for, 'pie in the sky, in the sweet by and by – it's for living now!

Christians can rejoice in suffering!

How?

The key is: by knowing (vs. 3)

James 1:2-3, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

It's knowing that our trials are working for us not against us.

God desires to use suffering in our lives to develop Christian character.

Know this:

1. Tribulations worketh – God is working

It's pressure

2. Worketh – Patience – it's fortitude or perseverance. It's brave endurance.

You are able to handle life's problems

What life does to you depends upon what life finds in you.

3. Patience worketh 'experience' – it's tested, or proven character.

God uses trials to mature us.

To develop 'Christ-like character'

The word 'tribulation' is from the Latin word, 'tribulum', a heavy piece of timber with spikes on it used for threshing grain.

God uses it to separate the wheat from the chaff in our lives.

Proven character - put to the test, found to be true

A 9 year old boy when asked what he wanted to be when he had grown up answered, 'I want to be a returned missionary'.

It's God making us veterans.

4. Proven Character works 'hope' (vs. 4)

It's a cycle!

At the moment of our justification we receive:

1. peace with God
2. access to God – standing in grace
3. joyful hope of heaven
4. rejoicing in tribulations because it's working to make us more like Jesus.

I know I am saved and going to heaven!

R. Kent Hughes - Ask - 'Are we experiencing this incredible exultation - this triumphant jubilation? Paul beautifully modeled it, as we see in 2 Corinthians 12:9 when he used exactly the same word saying, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me." We exult in suffering because it is the path to spiritual maturity and glory. The great saints of God all agree. Ask Abraham and he will direct your attention to the sacrifice on Mount Moriah. Ask Jacob and he will point you to his stone pillow. Ask Joseph and he will tell you about the dungeon. Ask Moses and he will remind you of his trial with Pharaoh. David will tell you his songs came in the night. Peter will speak of his denial, John of Patmos, and Jesus of the cross. Blessings are poured out in bitter cups.

I Thank God for the Bitter Things

I thank God for the bitter things,
they've been a friend to grace,
They've driven me from the path of ease
to storm the secret place

I'm thankful for the friends who failed
to fill my hearts deep need,
They've driven me to the Saviors feet
upon His love to feed.

I'm thankful to through all life's way
that none can satisfy,
And so I found in God alone
my full and rich supply

For the Justified we have:

1. Peace of God (vs. 1)
2. Grace of God (vs. 2)
3. Glory of God (vs. 2)
4. The work of God (vs. 3-4)
5. The love of God (vs. 5) – from the Spirit of God to make the child of God more like the Son of God.