

# SERMON NOTES

By Pastor John Paul Miller

## *In The Grip of God's Grace*

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

### Romans 5:5-11 - "The Blessing of Our Justification (Part 2)"

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:."*

In Romans 3:28 we find that, *"...a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."*

Two Questions:

1. What are the benefits, or blessings, of being justified?
2. Can we be sure that it will last?

In Romans 5:1 we read, *"...being justified by faith, we have..."*

The believer's benefit package:

1. Peace with God (vs. 1)
2. Access to God's Grace (vs. 2)
3. Rejoice in the Hope of the Glory of God (vs. 2)
4. Rejoice in our tribulations (vs. 3-4)

How do we know that this joy will not someday dissolve into delusion, or that it's not just all a pipe dream?

The answer is found in our next three blessings:

#### I. God's love poured out into our hearts (vs. 5-8)

Romans 5:5-8, *"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

As Christians we can rejoice in tribulations!

How?

By 'knowing' (vs. 3-4)

1. That tribulation worketh brave endurance
2. That brave endurance worketh proven character
3. That proven character worketh hope

Hope will not disappoint us!

Have you ever had hope disappoint you?

As believers, our hope is sure – no false hope

How do we know?

It's grounded in the unbounded Love of God – He will see us safely home to heaven.

How can we be sure that God loves us?

First, (vs. 5) "... *the love (Agape) of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*"

This is the first mention of the 'love of God' and 'Spirit of God' in Romans.

Lessons about the Holy Spirit:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to all believers
3. The Holy Spirit was given to us at the moment of our justification

(has been and continues to be in the aorist tense)

He regenerates us  
He indwells us  
He seals us  
He baptizes us  
He teaches us  
He fills us

4. Having been given to us, one of the Holy Spirit's distinctive ministries is to pour God's love into our hearts.

It's God's love for us.

'poured out' – a metaphor of a cloudburst – it's subjective.

Romans 8:16-17, "*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*"

The Second way we can be sure that God loves us is the objective fact of Christ's death on the cross (vs. 6-8).

Romans 5:6-8, "*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

Paul has already shown us that God's righteousness was demonstrated at the cross.

Romans 3:25, "*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*"

He sees the cross as a demonstration, or better proof of God's love (vs. 8)

The essence of loving is giving.

John 3:16, "*...For God so loved ... that he gave...*"

Galatians 2:20, "*...Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*"

Remember also that the degree of love is measured partly by the costliness of the gift to the giver, and partly by, the worthiness or unworthiness of the beneficiary.

The more the gift cost the giver, and the less the recipient deserves it, the greater the love is seen to be.

Measured by these standards, God's love in Christ is absolutely unique.

For in sending his son to die for sinners, God was giving everything, his very self, to those who deserved nothing from him except judgment.

The costliness of the gift – 'The Son of God!'

Also, notice what Paul says about the recipients - for whom did God give his only son to die for?

1. The powerless (vs. 6) – “*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*”

- it means that we were helpless to save or recuse ourselves.
- It an ‘unconditional impossibility’ contrast with a conditional impossibility.

2. The ungodly (vs. 6) – “*...in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*”.

We were unlike God, and rebellious toward Him. We did not want God ruling over us. We wanted to be free to do as we please.

3. Sinners (vs. 8) – describes those who have fallen short of God’s standards.

Romans 3:23, “*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*”

4. Enemies (vs. 10)

- we were at war with God
- we cherished a deep hostility to God
- we would attack him and destroy him if we could.

Illustration: the crucifixion of Jesus.

It’s against this dark background of man’s unworthiness that we see and truly appreciate the brightness of God’s great love.

1. if we think we deserve God’s love we won’t fully appreciate it.
2. If we think we deserve God’s love we will never be really secure in it.

God’s love is:

1. Unconditional (vs. 6)
2. Incomparable (vs. 7-8)

The fine devotional publication Daily Bread has related the following story:

During the Revolutionary War there was a faithful preacher of the gospel by the name of Peter Miller. He lived near a fellow who hated him intensely for his Christian life and testimony. In fact, this man violently opposed him and ridiculed his followers. One day the

unbeliever was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Hearing about this, Peter Miller set out on foot to intercede for the man's life before George Washington. The General listened to the minister's earnest plea, but told him he didn't feel he should pardon his friend. "My friend! He is not my friend," answered Miller. "In fact, he's my worst living enemy." "What!" said Washington. "You have walked 60 miles to save the life of your enemy? That, in my judgment, plus the matter in a different light. I will grant your request." With pardon in hand, Miller hastened to the place where his neighbor was to be executed, and arrived just as the prisoner was walking to the scaffold. When the traitor saw Miller, he exclaimed, "Old Peter Miller has come to have his revenge by watching me hang!" But he was astonished as he watched the minister step out of the crowd and produce the pardon which spared his life.

How much greater is God's love for us seen at the cross.

How can we doubt the love of God?

Objectively in history, God has proved His love.

Subjectively in experience, He has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Someone once tried to express the greatness of God's love by printing on a little card a special arrangement of John 3:16, with certain descriptive phrases added. The twelve parts of the verse were arranged down one side of the card, and the added phrases were printed across from them. It went like this:

God	the greatest Lover
So loved	the greatest degree
the world	the greatest company
that he gave	the greatest act
his only begotten Son	the greatest gift
that whosoever	the greatest opportunity
believeth	the greatest simplicity
in him	the greatest attraction
should not perish	the greatest promise
but	the greatest difference
have	the greatest certainty
everlasting life	the greatest possession

## II. Saved from the wrath of God (vs. 9-10)

*Romans 5:9-10, "Much more than, 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."*

Paul's sound logic – 'much more'

Jesus used it in Matthew 7:11, "*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?*"

What does Paul now mean by 'saved from wrath?'

Here in verses 9 & 10, Paul has the future salvation in mind.

1<sup>st</sup> Negatively – 'saved from wrath' (vs. 9)

2<sup>nd</sup> Positively – 'saved by his life' (vs. 10)

It's His work now in heaven for us

Hebrews 7:25, "*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*"

N.A.S.B. – '*able to save forever*'

N.L.T. – '*He is able once and forever to save*'.

Our salvation is sure – much more!

### III. Rejoicing in God (vs. 11)

Romans 5:11, "*And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.*"

- we have peace with God
- we have access to God
- we have the hope of the glory of God
- we have joy in tribulation because the love of God is poured out into our hearts.
- now we rejoice or exalt in God

Contrast this with our state before our justification.

We have reconciliation.

Exaltation!

The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks the following question:

What is the chief end of man?

Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

What exactly shall we rejoice in if we are to rejoice in God?

From this passage we can rejoice in:

1. God's Wisdom at the cross

In how He saves sinners

*Romans 11:33, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"*

God's wisdom in the way suffering works for our good and His glory.

2. God's Grace at the cross

**God's  
Riches  
At  
Christ's  
Expense**

- to the undeserving

3. God's Power at the cross

*Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (He) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."*

its triumph

4. God's Love (vs. 8)

From our study of this text it is clear that the mark of the justified believer is joy.

Joy in the hope of heaven (vs. 2)

Joy in our tribulations (vs. 3)

## And above all, joy in God Himself (vs. 11)

John R.W. Stott – Christian exultation in God begins with the shamefaced recognition that we have no claim on him at all, continues with wondering worship that while we were still sinners and enemies Christ died for us, and ends with the humble confidence that he will complete the work he has begun. So to exult in God is to rejoice not in our privileges but in his mercies, not in our possession of him but in his of us.

In spite of our knowledge that for Christians people all boasting is excluded (3:27), we nevertheless boast or rejoice in our hope of sharing God's glory (2), in our tribulations (3) and above all in God himself (11). This exulting *is through our Lord Jesus Christ*, because it is through him that *we have now received* ('the' or 'our') *reconciliation* (11).

It seems clear from this paragraph, then, that the major mark of justified believers is joy, especially joy in God himself. We should be the most positive people in the world. For the new community of Jesus Christ is characterized not by a self-centered triumphalism but by a God-centered worship.