

## **The Blessings of Justification by Faith, Part 2** *(Vs. the Hopelessness of Justification by Works)*

### **Romans 5:1-5**

**Sermon-in-a-Sentence:** Through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we can rejoice with confident expectation in our future glorification with God in heaven and also in our present trials and tribulations here on earth because God is using them for our spiritual growth and development.

In Romans chapters 3 and 4, the Apostle Paul had clearly and persuasively demonstrated that Justification, a right standing before God, is a gracious gift from God that must be received by faith. Salvation is *by faith alone* in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead apart from any human effort on our part.

Now, in Romans 5:1-11, Paul was led by the Holy Spirit to pause and reflect on the blessings we receive from God when we trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation.

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In Romans 5:1-5, Paul identifies ten blessings that God has for those who place their faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, for salvation.

#### **#1 – Peace**

**1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...**

- The hostility and hatred between God and ourselves because of our sin has been removed through faith in Christ's death on the cross.
- We have been reconciled to God and are no longer His enemies!

#### **#2 – Access**

**2 through whom we have gained access by faith...**

- Through Jesus Christ, we have the means, the right and the permission to approach God and enter into His presence.
- Jesus Christ is the only means of access to God. (John 14:6; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22)

#### **#3 – Grace**

**...into this grace in which we now stand.**

- Grace is God's undeserved favor and blessing.
- Here, it especially "refers to the secure position of the believer's standing" in Christ. (*ESV Study Bible, p. 2165*)
- "This grace wherein we stand is... the position of sons who live in fellowship with God, who are not merely forgiven enemies or pardoned sinners, but [beloved] children who have received 'the spirit of adoption' whereby [we] cry 'Abba, Father.'" (*Charles Erdman, Romans, p. 62*)

- This is our position in Christ, but this phrase also reminds us that we need God's grace every moment of every day and through faith in Christ we now stand in God's grace!

#### **#4 – Hope**

##### **And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.**

- "Peace with God' takes care of the past: He will no longer hold our sins against us. 'Access to God' takes care of the present: We can come to Him at any time for the help we need. And 'hope of the glory of God' takes care of the future: One day we shall share in His glory!" (*Wiersbe, Be Right, p. 61*)
- The word hope here does not refer to "wishful thinking." It is a confident expectation, an assured certainty.
- "...it is a sure hope, one that is certain of fulfillment, because those who cherish it have already received the guarantee of its realization in the gift of the Holy Spirit, who fills [our] hearts with the love of God." (*F.F. Bruce, Romans, p. 125*)
- The "glory of God" is the manifestation of the divine nature. [The perfections of God's character and nature – Romans 3:23.] Just like the rays of the sun exhibit aspects of its nature, so the glory of the Lord displays facets of His character. Of course, the greatest revelation of God's glory was in Jesus Christ. As 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 to one day be like Him in every respect. This hope is sure, as the Scripture promises in these words: "We know that, when He [Christ] appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is." (1 John 3:2b) ...God is committed to [our spiritual] development... God's goal in the development process is to make [us] just like His Son. Furthermore, once He begins to restore a sinner into Christ's image, He will not quit until the task is complete. Even "if we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself" (2 Tim. 2:13)." (*Swindoll, Coming to Terms with Sin, p. 56*)
- "Glory' refers to the state of things as God desires them. Good will triumph over evil, justice shall prevail, sin will have no place, and everything will exist in harmony with God's holy character... Therefore, we live with joyful confidence in the assured expectation that Christ will one day set all things right. We rejoice in knowing that we have been renewed and that we are in the process of becoming more like Jesus." (*Swindoll, Romans, pp. 112-13*)
- Hope is the "'assured expectation,' the certainty of a promised outcome. We experience this kind of hope when we watch a nail-biting, come-from-behind victory over a superior team against insurmountable odds [when we know the outcome in advance]... Knowing the outcome of a competition [in advance] profoundly changes how we experience it. We observe without anxiety. We endure setbacks without panic." (*Swindoll, Romans, p. 114*)
- We can face the trials and tribulations of this present time with confident expectation, absolute optimism, because we know that we are on the winning side!

#5 – Sufferings

#5a – Perseverance

#5b – Character

#5c – Hope

#6 – Love

#7 – The Holy Spirit

