

Romans 5:1-11

I. The Basis for the Benefits of Justification is God's Declaration Rom. 5:1a

“*Therefore*” – this is the conclusion of chapters 1-4; 1-3 all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, lost and without hope of knowing God. But God who is rich in mercy provides the gift of grace and redemption by faith in Jesus Christ – 4:4-5. The result is our “*justification*”.

God took our sins, placed them on Jesus Christ and took Christ's righteousness and gave it to us. I am now in right standing with God. It is not by anything that I have done but all that Christ has done on my behalf. There are at least five benefits in these verses and my goal this morning is to define each one and then for us to think about the implications of each one for our daily living. What difference does it make in my life to have this benefit?

II. The Benefits That Flow From Justification Rom. 5:1b-5

A. Peace With God 5:1b

1. Definition (εἰρήνην - i-ray'-nay) – hostility has ceased and a relationship of harmony has been established. We who once were at war with God are now reconciled to Him through the death and resurrection of Jesus – 5:10-11. Ephesians 2:17 declares that Jesus himself is our peace while Col. 1:20 declares that God gave us peace with himself through the blood of the cross. This peace is not just a positive feeling or a sense of tranquility, but it's an objective status: it never changes. Jesus Christ paid the complete penalty for my sin, he took my punishment and there is nothing left to pay. What is the opposite of peace? War, right? Prior to our salvation we were at war with God. God was our enemy and we were his. But now because of justification by faith we have been brought into a relationship of peace.

2. Practical Implication of Being at Peace With God

1) No need to fear God's judgment. God is no longer your judge; he is your father. 2) No need to fear death. 3) Peace brings life and passion. Shalom carries with it the idea of wholeness, completeness, abundance in joy, and a full life. Blessed with every spiritual blessing – Eph. 1:3.

B. Standing in Grace 5:2a

1. Definition – introduction or acceptance into a permanent state of grace. Our position before God is a state of grace. It is obtained through Christ. It's permanent (ἑστήκαμεν - his'-tay-mee) – *we stand*, not will stand, might stand if, used to stand or stand for a while, but stand as a permanent position of favor before God.

Think of it like this: *What did you do to get into the state of grace?* Nothing, right? Grace is God's unmerited favor where you receive what you did not deserve. So if you didn't do anything to 'get into' that state of grace what can you do to 'get out of it'? Nothing, not even sin because according to 5:20 where sin abounded grace abounded even more.

2. Practical Implications of Standing in Grace

1) Resources of grace are available all the time. That is why we come boldly to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16). To receive what? Grace and mercy to help! There are no poor believers, no second-class citizens of glory. Each one of us has free unlimited access to God's grace in which we stand. 2) Passion for life. Life is a gift, forgiveness is a gift, and enjoyment is a gift (Ecc. 5:18-20). All are grace gifts.

C. Hope of the Glory of God 5:2b

1. Definition - hope is a confident expectation. For what do we hope? The glory of God. The glory is God's intrinsic revelation of Himself. God has revealed His glory; that is the expression of His person. We beheld it in the person of Jesus – John 1:14. It's what the creation looks forward to – Rom. 8:21. We will be glorified in him – 2 Thess. 1:12. So we could say that not only is God preparing a place for us he is also preparing us for a place. The hope is the guarantee that it will happen.

And the point being, if He called you and if He justified you, He'll glorify you. That is our hope. The consummation of our redemption, the ultimate fulfillment of our salvation is connected with the manifestation of the glory of God in and through us. In 1 Peter 5:1 Peter defines a believer as “*a partaker of the divine glory*”.

Note that this hope of glory is something in which we rejoice. *Kauchaomai* (kow-khah'-o-my), is a word that basically is a confident boast or an exultant jubilation. It's a very strong word – to rejoice exuberantly or jubilantly – to be thrilled, if you will. The same word is used in vv. 3 and 11. So our joy or rejoicing is in our hope of glory, our tribulations knowing what they produce, and most importantly in God Himself – v. 11.

2. Practical Implications of the Hope of Glory

God is committed to our development now which means that he will never give up on me. According to Eph. 2:10 we are his workmanship – masterpieces. And some of us need a few more rough edges smoothed over and shaped. And what God starts he finishes – Phil. 1:6. God will never cast us aside as ‘*hopeless*’, never set us in a room with ‘*rejects, leftovers*’ and therefore we can be certain that everything that comes into our lives has purpose – 8:28.

Return to Eph. 2 and look at the “*so that*” in v. 7. We have been made alive (v. 6) raised up and seated in the heavenlies (v. 7) so that – here is the purpose – that in the ages to come – eternal glory He might show the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us. We become the trophy room for God's grace for all eternity. That is the glory that awaits in which we rejoice now.

Hence we also rejoice in our tribulations (v. 3).

D. Joy in Suffering 5:3-5a

1. Definition – how can we rejoice in the pressures of life...the difficulties and trials? Doesn't that seem a little unfair? It does if we base our rejoicing on our feelings and not our understanding. While there are many things we do not know – why cancer strikes one and not another; why one child excels and another struggles; why the money didn't come in; why...But there is one thing we do know.

We know that tribulations, trials, difficulties produce a kind of character that develops hope. Note the progression – tribulations develop perseverance – endurance, steadfastness, the quality to hang in there. When you persevere you develop character – reliability, integrity, trustworthiness. Character leads to hope – confidence, assurance that God is at work transforming us into the image of Jesus. Remember hope? It is a happy certainty, a confident expectation. And when God is at work we will never be disappointed. Confused maybe, awed, surprised, perplexed, but not disappointed. Because God is preparing us for glory. Is there anything more exciting to live for?

2. Practical Implications of Joy in Suffering

Our ability to have joy in suffering is based on knowledge – fact. The reason a woman endures labor is based on the fact of childbirth – something positive will occur. Pressure produces something positive – it promotes our spiritual growth.

E. Assurance of God's Love 5:5b

1. Definition – God's love has been "*poured out ... into our hearts.*" The verb is in the perfect tense indicating that God's love has been and continues to be poured out within our hearts. This is a picture of unstinting lavishness, a profuse pouring out of love, and a permanent flood. Our hearts have been filled to overflowing with divine affection.

2. Practical Implications of God's Love

There is nowhere you can go that God's love can't reach you. There is nothing you can do to cause God to stop loving you. There is nothing you can do to get God to love you more. His love is infinite – 8:38-39. Now in vv. 6-11 Paul answers three questions about God's love: *Why? How much? How long?* Paul describes us here with four words: "*helpless*" (v. 6), "*ungodly*" (v. 6), "*sinners*" (v. 8), and "*enemies*" (v. 10). In so doing he tells us that God's love was totally unmotivated by anything in us. Because this love is unmerited and is not dependent upon us, it will never change. Think of it! We are lavished with a love that lies in God alone. God's love is the permanent possession of the child of God.

III. The Benefits of Love Expanded Romans 5:6-11

A. Why did God love me? 5:6

The word "*helpless*" means "*weak, infirm and powerless to do good*". Left to ourselves not one of us is able to do even one small thing to achieve salvation. Ephesians 2:1 vividly says "*we were dead in our trespasses and sins*". That is we were no more able to respond to or seek God than a corpse is able to respond to stimuli.

I'm not only helpless, I'm ungodly. At that time Christ died for me. When I was helpless and ungodly God revealed his love by giving Jesus to die for me – to take my just punishment, my '*just deserts*'. Now listen carefully, if there was nothing in us to attract Him to love us in the first place, what could there be in us to make Him stop loving in the second place? I mean, if Christ died for us when we were ungodly, impotent, ugly sinners and God could love us then, is it going to be any problem for Him to love us now? God loved me simply because God is love and it has nothing to do with me.

B. How much does God love me? 5:7-8

No one would die for a coldhearted, righteous man, but one might die for a good man – a kind gracious, warm, and compassionate man. Jesus however died for sinners – those who have fallen short of God's standards, broken God's laws, and hurtful to each other. It's for people like this, like all of us – sinners for whom Christ died.

God demonstrated or manifested, revealed, proved, and established his love through the death of Christ on the cross. In order to grasp this, we need to remember that the essence of loving is giving. Moreover, 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 costs 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, he was giving everything, his very self, to those who deserved nothing from him except judgment.

C. How long will God love me? 5:9-10

How long will this kind of love last? Can I out sin God's love or go beyond his willingness to love me? Paul introduces his "*much more*" argument – the one that argues from the greater to the lessor.

Which is greater: to justify a sinner (*declare him righteous*) or save a saint from judgment? Since God has already done the more difficult task of justifying us when we were ungodly, helpless sinners then he will obviously continue to do the lesser work of saving us through his life. Verse 10 gives us the second '*much more*' argument. While we were enemies of God – by nature hostile to God, opposed to his way and wanting our way. If we could, we would attack and destroy him. While in that state we were '*reconciled*' to God. We were brought from estrangement to harmony, from an enemy to a friend.

Reconcile is never used of God. God doesn't need to change, man does. Mankind, you and I were by nature helpless (*we couldn't get to God if we wanted to*) ungodly (*we didn't want to*) enemies (*fighting against him*) sinners incapable of gaining a relationship to with God on our own, God initiated an act of reconciliation whereby we are changed and brought into a relationship with himself.

Much more than if sin was not an insurmountable barrier to the beginning of my redemption, how can it be a barrier to its completion? If God's grace covers the sins of his enemies how much more does it cover the sins of his children? So how long will God love me? Forever! How much does God love me? Beyond measure. Why does God love me? Nothing in me but all in him. Causeless. What then is left for me to do?

D. My response to God's love for me 5:11

Joy is the climax. As a matter of fact if you look at this whole paragraph the clear mark of honoring God, of being a Christian is joy – jubilation or exultant rejoicing. There is rejoicing in the future – the hope of the glory of God (v. 2b); rejoicing in the present work of God on our behalf – the hope that springs from proven character (vv. 3-4) and finally joy in God himself (v. 11).

Conclusion

Having been declared righteous, justified we have: Peace with God, a standing in grace, the hope of glory, the love of the Holy Spirit and the much more love of God Himself. It's all through Jesus Christ. Verse 1: "*We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Verse 2: "*By whom (Christ) also we stand in grace.*" Verse 6: "*In due time Christ died for the ungodly.*" Verse 8: "*Christ died for us.*" Verse 9: "*Justified by His blood, we're saved from wrath through Him.*" Verse 10: "*Reconciled to God, by the death of His Son, we shall be saved by His life.* And not only so, but "*we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (Verse 11). It's always through Christ.

God never loved us because we were lovable. We were not lovable. He saved us in the midst of our sin and He did it for His own glory, to show what a glorious, gracious, merciful, loving God He is, to put Himself on display throughout all eternity.

We should be the most positive people in the world. Our ability to be positive, to rejoice, is in having the right focus – God's character and what he has done for us. Knowing that God who saved me, redeemed me, justified me, died for me, reconciled me to himself is at work in my life now and will never let me go. Rejoice!

Psalm 34:3 *O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together!*