

# THE BLESSINGS OF OUR JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (Romans 5:1-11)

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. What have we learned from Paul in Romans 1-4?
  - 1. The whole world is guilty of sin.
  - 2. Our own works will not save us.
  - 3. God's plan for our salvation is "by grace, through faith."
  - 4. Abraham is our example of how God's plan works.
  - 5. We need to be saved and have that opportunity.
  
- B. What else do we need to know about justification by faith?
  - 1. Can we be sure it will last?
  - 2. How can God save a sinner through Christ's death on the cross?  
(this can be examined in the second half of chapter 5)
  
- C. Paul will use first half of chapter 5 to explain a basic truth concerning the blessings our justification.

## II. DISCUSSION

- A. Paul accomplishes two purposes in listing these blessings:
    - 1. He tells us how wonderful it is to be a Christian.
    - 2. He assures us that our justification can be a lasting thing.
  
  - B. Seven spiritual blessing that accrue to us through our justification:
    - 1. **Peace with God** (1) - because we are righteous in our justification, we are not under condemnation and therefore at peace with God. (Isa. 48:22; 32:17) A peace that is preceded by justification by faith. "By faith" as used by Paul is well illustrated in Heb. 11 (also see Gal. 3:26,27).
      - a. v.4 - *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain.*
      - b. v.7 - *By faith, Noah being warned of God...prepared an ark to the saving of his house.*
      - c. v.30 - *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down.*
      - d. v.29 - *By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land.*
      - e. Gal. 3:26,27 shows the importance of water baptism if one wishes to walk by faith. (Whiteside)
- Faith then is taking God at His word and doing what He commands. A faith that refuses to do what God commands will justify no one.

2. **Access to God** (2a) - the word access implies entrance to God through favor of another. Jesus tore the veil that separated the Jews from God and broke down the wall that separated God and the Gentiles. Our faith in Jesus puts us in a favorable light with the Father, (2 Thess. 2:13,14; Col.3:4).
3. **Glorious Hope** (2b) - Peace with God clears the past, access to God takes care of the present, but what of the future. The hope of the glory of God settles the future for the obedient son. Christians are looking forward to receiving His glory.
4. **Christian Character** (3,4) - tribulations work **for** the true child of God, not against him. Suffering for Christ builds our Christian character. Tribulation builds patience which in turn builds proven character which builds hope. The word for patience here means fortitude. Fortitude is more than passive endurance; it is the spirit that actively overcomes trials. As gold is purified by fire, as wheat is separated from chaff by threshing, so is our Christian character proven by tribulation. Knowing that tribulation results finally in hope, how we perceive and handle tribulations then is an indication of our faithfulness.
5. **God's Love Within** (5-8) - If God sent Christ to die for us while we were still in our sins, how much more will he love us as obedient children? We are sustained through our tribulations by this love. The unbeatable combination of faith, hope and love give the believer patience to withstand the trials of life (Jas. 1:1-4) True Christians are filled with the love of God. Revelation of God's love comes to us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will fulfill our hope. (2 Cor. 1:21,22; 5:5)
6. **Salvation From Future Wrath** (9-10) - (1 Thess. 1:9,10; 5:8-10) We are saved by His death which put his testament in force and by His life when he rose from the dead to be executor of His own will. If He died for us while we were still His enemies, then imagine the advantages we have as His friends. His resurrected life affords Christ the opportunity to intercede for us, and rule our hearts and lives if we will let Him. He can lead us to eternal salvation. This passage illustrates the two major works that Christ must accomplish: (1) make a sinner a saint and (2) direct the saints to heaven.
7. **Reconciliation with God** (11) - Christ has brought us into agreement with God. (Eph. 2:11-18 speaks to this reconciliation through Christ in which we are brought into agreement with God.) He died for us, He lives for us and He is coming back for us!

### III. CONCLUSION

- A. *My Hope (indeed) is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.* Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth and the life; no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.* (Jn. 14:6 ASV) Paul adds, *For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* (1 Cor. 3:11 ASV)
- B. But Christ has left it up to us to rejoice in our tribulations so that they might build patience, which in turn will build an approved character, which finally will build our hope. (Rom. 5:3b,4)
- C. Are you making your tribulations work for you or are you just throwing yourself a "pity party?" A worldly hope is worthless. Omar Khayyam wrote this concerning human hopes:
- The Worldly Hope men set their hearts upon  
Turn Ashes - or it prospers; and anon,  
Like Snow upon the Desert's dusty Face  
Lighting a little Hour or two - is gone.*

Your Hope of eternal life depends on how you handle the cares of this earth-life!