

EXPOSITION OF ROMANS

Message #19

Romans 5:1-11

We may observe that **chapter 5** begins with the inferential conjunction that is used some 496 times in the New Testament, “therefore.” The section that Paul is about to launch into is a continuation of thought based on the fact of justification by God’s imputation or calculation.

As we come to this section of Scripture, Paul is still discussing justification by faith. In fact, the word “justified” shows up twice in this text - **verses 1 and 9**. In both instances the word is an aorist, passive participle. **What this means is that justification occurs at one . moment in the past and that we are the passive recipients of the action.** In other words, God is the one who judicially declares us righteous from our sin and He does so at one moment of time - the moment we believe on Jesus Christ. This becomes the basis for the amazing benefits Paul will now discuss. The point is this:

AT THE MOMENT GOD JUDICIALLY CALCULATES ONE AS RIGHTEOUS, MANY WONDERFUL RESULTS AND BENEFITS ARE IMMEDIATELY GIVEN TO THE SECURE BELIEVER.

At the moment a person believes on Jesus Christ, God as Holy Judge makes a judicial decree that this person is declared righteous and no longer can be subject to His wrath. At that very moment and instant many positive benefits are in place for the one who has been declared righteous. But this section is not only about benefits, but also one that is designed to show the security one has in his relationship with God after he has been justified.

BENEFIT #1 – One who has been justified has peace with God. **5:1-2a**

In the Bible there are two types of peace: **(Type #1)** - Peace with God; **(Type #2)** - Peace of God. Most people who have never believed on Jesus Christ do not see themselves as an enemy of God. They view themselves as being just as good as the next person. But the Biblical reality is, if one has not come to faith in Jesus Christ, one is an enemy of God (Romans 5:10), one is hostile toward God (Romans 8:7), one cannot please God (Romans 8:8), and one is under the wrath of God (Romans 1:18). One without Christ IS NOT in a peaceful relationship with God. Psalm 7:11-12 does not paint the world the picture of a “love God,” for the text says that “God is a righteous judge and a God who has indignation every day. If man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.” God is angry with unbelievers “every day.” Unbelievers are not at peace with a Holy God.

However, that all changes the moment one believes. At the precise moment one believes on Christ, God judicially declares that one righteous and has and is at “peace with God.”

The truth is any form of real peace stems from a proper relationship with God.

Type #1 - There is world peace - this is the peace that the world - specifically Israel - longs for that features no more wars and hostilities in the world. This will only happen when the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, reigns on this earth (Isaiah 9:6; 11:5-10).

Type #2 - There is social peace - this is the peace that one should strive for when living with his fellow man (Romans 12:18).

Type #3 - There is service peace - this is the peace that Jesus Christ gives to His servants, which enables them to cope with the world and serve Him in view of His absence (John 14:27).

Type #4 - There is supernatural peace - this is the peace that God grants to one who prays about things which makes him anxious or worried. It is a peace beyond human comprehension (Philippians 4:7).

Type #5 - There is salvation peace- this is the moment one believes on Jesus and enters into a peace relationship with God forever (Romans 5:9).

BENEFIT #2 – One who has been justified exults in a future hope. **5:2b**

The word “exult” is one that means to joyously boast or glory in something (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 243). This is a key word of this section, for it appears in **verses 2, 3 and 11**.

In this verse the idea is that of joyously hoping for the moment when Jesus Christ will appear in all of His glory. Paul in his letter to Titus said, “Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13).

Carefully notice where our hope lies in our justification, in our glorification . Once you are justified you are destined for eternal glory.

BENEFIT #3 – One who has been justified can rejoice in present trials. **5:3-8**

A very real question that every believer must face is this - “If I am in such a wonderful relationship with God, and if God is not my enemy, why do I have problems, troubles and trials?” The noun “tribulations” is particular which refers to specific troubles that come to one justified.

There is a real purpose and meaning to trials of one justified and in these verses, he teaches us the purpose of our trials. **The real purpose of trials is to develop the character of the one justified into becoming a complete believer.**

There are at least five types of suffering or reasons for trials: **1)** Corrective (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-7); **2)** Glory of God (John 9:2-3); **3)** Satanic warfare (Job 1:11); **4)** Destructive judgment (Revelation 6; Isaiah 24); **5)** Constructive character development (Romans 5; James 1; II Peter 1).

Purpose #1 - Trials bring about perseverance . 5:3

The noun “tribulations” refers to various pressures, afflictions and distresses (Ibid., p. 209). Paul’s point is, the believer who experiences various pressures, afflictions and distresses can rejoice knowing that these things are character builders, building perseverance into the life. That noun “perseverance” is one that refers to patient waiting. This character trait of patiently waiting on God is a major mark of godliness. In fact, James says the man who “perseveres” under trial will ultimately receive a special reward from God (James 1:12).

Purpose #2 - Perseverance brings about proven character . 5:4a

The words “proven character” actually mean to approve from a test . The idea is that when a believer is experiencing trials and patiently waits on God, he is actually being developed in his character to the point that he gets God’s approval. When we patiently wait on the Lord during trials, we actually gain the approval of Almighty God.

Purpose #3 - Proven character brings about hope . 5:4b

When a person patiently waits on God during trials, it actually develops a depth level of maturity of hope in God. When you talk to a believer who has been through trials and remained faithful, he has a hope and confidence in God that is way beyond the norm .

Purpose #4 - Hope does not bring about disappointment . 5:5

Trials will try and zap everything from a believer. But when that believer patiently endures and hopes in God, that hope will never be a disappointment.

That word “disappoint” is one that carries with it the idea of being disgraced or dishonored or ashamed because of unfulfilled hopes (Smith, pp. 233-234). God is saying hope that is in Me, hope that trusts Me and waits on Me in trials will never be disappointed.

Now the reason why we will never be disappointed is because we are loved by God (5:5b) at a very unusual level and God will not ever disappoint those He loves.

Now the “for” which begins **verse 6** explains that God loves us and the way He loves us:

Fact #1 - God loved us when we were helpless and ungodly . 5:6

The word “helpless” means that God loved us when we were in a sick, weak, feeble condition (Ibid., p. 64). The word “ungodly” means God loved us when we desired to do ungodly, unholy, irreverent things and then did them (Ibid., p. 63). God loved those He justified when they were in their helpless and godless sin and **His love is not about to stop when we are in trials** .

Fact #2 - God loved us and Christ died for us while we were sinners. **5:7-8**

It is a very rare thing to find someone willing to die for someone else because they love them, even if the one is good. You might find some who would be willing to die for a good man. There are acts of heroism in which someone was willing to lay down his own life for someone else. However, no one is willing to lay down his own life for hateful enemies. But that is exactly what Jesus Christ did for us. Christ died for us while we were sinners and an enemy of God.

Behind any trial you will ever have is a God who loves you at a very unusual level. He died for us while we were sinners and He will help us in our trials even though we still are sinners.

If you don't see yourself as a wretched sinner you, will never grasp the magnitude of God's love for you, and you will never be secure in God's love because you will always live with the insecurity that you could lessen it.

BENEFIT #4 – One who has been justified shall be saved from God's wrath. **5:9**

Look at the nouns that God uses to describe what we were prior to justification in this context - ungodly (5:6), sinners (5:8), God's enemies (5:10). If ever there were language that describes people who deserve God's wrath, it is right here. **But the amazing thing is that when God has judicially declared us righteous, we never have to worry about facing His wrath.** Once you have been justified you are exempt from anything that has to do with God's wrath - the Tribulation, Hades and the Eternal Lake of Fire.

BENEFIT #5 – One who has been justified has been reconciled to God. **5:10-11**

Three times in these two verses the word “reconcile” occurred. The word comes from a Greek word (καταλλάσσω) which means to change or transform something (Ibid., p. 236). C. I. Scofield said there is really only one true meaning of the word reconciliation and that is to cause or affect a thorough change (26 *Great Words of Scripture*, p. 1300).

There are at least two theological uses of the word “reconciliation”:

1) The transformation of the world into a savable position through Christ's work on Calvary.

All men are now capable of being saved by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

2) The transformation of the individual into a saved condition.

The moment one believes on Jesus Christ he is instantly saved.

The big question is, How do we get justified? How do we lock in all of these benefits? Look back carefully at **Romans 5:1** - “by faith.” The moment you believe on Jesus Christ to save you, God judicially declares you righteous and these benefits are forever yours.