

Text: Romans 5:1-5- Title: The Results of Justification

Theme: The Apostle Paul laid out the benefits and privileges of a Christian, one who has received the free gift of salvation.

Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have **access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and **rejoice in hope of the glory of God**.³ And not only that, but we also **glory in tribulations**, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ Now **hope** does not disappoint, because the **love of God has been poured out in our hearts** by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

INTRODUCTION

One of the major disagreements that the Reformers had with the Roman Catholic Church concerned the justification of believers. While the Reformers argued that believers were justified by faith alone, the Roman Church argued that faith was important, but deeds were equally important. This doctrine had since become one of the major distinctions between the Protestant church and the Roman Catholic Church and was passed down to our churches today.

Though most protestant churches still hold to the doctrine of justification by faith, yet, many are unable to grasp the riches contained within this doctrine. Only if churches today teach more broadly the Word of God, they will see this very doctrine was the heart of the Christian faith. In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul explained this. Having spent the first few chapters on the cause and manner of justification, the Apostle Paul explained the results of justification. This is where we pick up. So, what are the results of our justification?

The Apostle Paul recorded four results and they will also be our main points today:

- 1. We have Peace with God**
- 2. We have Access to God by faith**
- 3. We have Glory in our hope**
- 4. We have Glory in tribulations**

I. “We have Peace with God”

Let us first consider the context. The book of Romans was written to the early Christians, Jews and Gentiles, who resided in Rome. Paul began the book by first stating that there was no one righteous in the eyes of God. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) No one kept his law. All men were therefore justly condemned, the whole human race.

Yet, though man was **hopeless in his sinful condition**, God turned the table. In Romans 3:22, the Apostle Paul said that God offered man a way out of his sinful condition. God offered to justify us. (Justification is God’s judicial declaration that our sins are cleared **because Jesus took our punishment**.) God would justify us by giving us faith to receive the work of Jesus. It is because God knew that we could only be justified by faith since we could never earn justification through keeping the law.

This is where our text picks up from. After “we have been justified, then what? Paul said that the first result is that “we have peace with God”!

But what did Paul mean?

First, we must remind ourselves how Paul began the book of Romans. He began by talking about the wrath of God on wicked men who suppress the truth. (Romans 1). **This wickedness was in all men**, Jews and Gentiles – both of whom were in the church in Rome. Neither Jews nor Gentiles were in a good position. All had sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and their sins were at the root of God’s wrath. It all began at the Fall, when their first parents transgressed the law of God! As a result, man lost all communion with God and **became aliens to God** and was subject to death and eternal condemnation.

But through justification through Jesus “we have peace with God.” God’s wrath has been appeased and we can now have a relationship with God! It does not only mean that we have a peaceful mind or a peaceful heart, but it is something more! It is a peace that continues and none can take away. Being at peace with God means that God no longer stands against us, but He is for us! He no longer considers us as enemies, but as friends!

So how did Jesus bring us that peace? How did we become friends of God? The Apostle Paul told us that we neither deserved nor earned this relationship as we were enemies of God. Jesus took God’s anger for us. **So he was the cause** of our justification. God did not give us Jesus because we are justified, He sent His Son **in order** to justify us! Also, in Ephesians 2:14, Paul told us that Jesus is our peace. So, it is only through our Lord Jesus we have obtained peace with God, a peace that cannot be lost, even while we continue to remain as a sinner. To put it in different terms, the Lord Jesus had obtained for us a relationship, a relationship with God that we once had in Adam, in paradise. **This is the Good news: what we had lost in the first Adam, the Lord Jesus had restored it for us!** And not only so, **Jesus calls us as His friends**.

Lessons:

- 1. Through faith in Jesus we have reconciliation with God!** Brothers and sisters, Jesus shed his blood so that we don’t have to die. More than that, when we put our faith in Jesus’ work, we were declared innocent of all our sins! This wonderful truth is seen every week when you come to worship! When the minister lifts up his hand (salutation), it is an indication that God has nothing against you!

It means that you may come in peace. And when the minister announces God's blessing at the end of the service, it means you must go in peace. This is the beauty of the Gospel, this is what it means to have peace with God!

2. **Rejoice in this wonderful truth!** Just as God called Abraham His friend, He also calls you a friend! Rejoice therefore, God no longer stands against you, but you are now a friend of God!
3. **When you sin, repent!** Though you were justified by faith in the Lord Jesus, the reality is that you still sin. Brothers and sisters, don't let your sin weigh you down. Don't let the cunning lie of Satan get to you. Don't believe that you are too dirty for Jesus to wash you. Don't let failures make you feel like you should go to hell. The truth is that Jesus had taken all your sins, sins of the past, present, and future, and laid them upon Himself. Jesus has washed you clean!

II. We have access to God by faith

The second benefit that the Apostle Paul laid out is that by faith, we also receive the grace of God. What does that mean? Paul is telling us that **to be received into the state of grace is to not only be in a good standing with God, but to also receive God's favor!** And through this grace, Paul tells us that we also have the access to God by faith. This is a wonderful privilege.

Remember in the Old Covenant, the priests had to represent the people of Israel to offer sacrifices according to the command of God (Numbers 18), but the writer of Hebrews said that the sacrifice of animals were only shadows of the good thing to come (Hebrews 10:4). They were insufficient to take away the veil of sin. However, the good thing had indeed come, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Final High Priest who came to perform the sacrifice by offering up Himself, once and for all. He has torn the veil from top to bottom! It signified that we not only have reconciliation with God, but we also have access to all the blessedness! As a result of peace with God, we can now pray to him. **We no longer have to go with fear and trembling, but we may go with boldness and confidence!** It is because Jesus had fulfilled it all! He was the last sacrifice which was sufficient to take away the curse of sin.

More, the Lord has also given us his Holy Spirit, who "teaches us all things and bring to our remembrance all that Jesus had said" (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit resides in us, He teaches us and reveals to us the Word of God. But more importantly, He lights the flame within us and He testifies in our hearts that we are God's children (Romans 8:16), and when we do not know how to pray, He prays for us in accordance with the will of God (Romans 8:26-27).

Lessons:

1. **Now you have access to the God of all glory!** You see, through the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit who works in you, that you now have access to the God who is gracious, compassionate, slow to anger, and abound in steadfast love, and faithful to His Covenant faithfulness! What a privilege! What a blessing! This should move your heart to worship!
2. **Do you use this privilege?** You are a child of God and the Lord delights to hear His children's prayer! But do you pray? Do you ask God to provide you the things you need? Do you go to the Lord daily to be with Him? Remember that you have access to the Almighty God, the One who created the heaven and the earth!
3. **Do you let God speak to you?** It is wonderful to speak to God and bring your requests before Him, but access to God means He also speaks to you. And He speaks to you through his Word! If you don't know His Word, how would you be able to know His will and what to pray for? Brothers and sisters, this is a reminder to us that we must read His Word in order to hear what God requires you to do, and this is what the Westminster Shorter Catechism teaches us, the Scripture contains the rule by which we may properly enjoy Him forever!

III. Glory in our future hope

Furthermore, Paul also tells us that we not only have **received peace** with God and the blessedness of **access to God**, he also tells us that we can "**rejoice in the hope of the glory of God**".

What does that mean? Here, the Apostle Paul did not only mean that we should be happy, but we should rejoice and boast about our salvation to the highest level!

So, what is that "hope of the glory of God"?

First, "hope" refers to that which is certain but not yet seen or experienced in its fullness. So, Paul is telling us to rejoice in the hope that is certain but not here yet. It will come in the future. What was he referring? He was referring to the day when the glory of God is made manifest when the Lord Jesus returns, when redemption is completed. We also call that glorification, which is when our hope is realized.

But there is a reason why **we should rejoice now** while projecting ourselves into the future in hope. It is because on the day when our Lord Jesus returns, our hope will be realized, and **the glory of God will be reflected** in us. It is an anticipation of the **return of that which was lost in the Garden of Eden**. (Paradise will be restored.) And alongside these things, **we will have the burden and guilt of sins removed**. So Christians can now joyfully and confidently look forward to that day.

Lessons:

1. You cannot help but have joy when you have this hope of glory. This is a hope that God has given to every believer, a hope that makes us look forward to Sunday worship every week, because we have a glimpse of what heaven will be like, constant worship!
2. But what about those who do not have this hope? Their lives are miserable now and will be more miserable in the future. You see, this is **motivation to be evangelistic!** Brothers and sisters, this is why we have to share the Gospel with others! How can others know about

this if we don't go and tell? God has called us to be instruments to speak his Word! We are His ambassadors! As we hope for the future glory, let us also live a Godly and evangelistic life, so that more may come and rejoice with us!

IV. Glory in tribulations

Even though Paul pointed us to the hope of glory in the future, yet, our justification has another immediate application now! We can show our hope of glory **through rejoicing in our tribulations**. You see, Paul was not unrealistic about tribulations. He told the Corinthians that they would be squeezed...chased after...and beaten for their faith. But because of the future hope, he urged them to rejoice, even in their troubles.

Why would Christians want to glory in tribulations?

a. Tribulations produces perseverance. That is Verse 3. What Paul was referring here was not any sort of troubles in life, but that which was suffered for the sake of Christ. The word perseverance here also referred to endurance. It is a fruit of having endured tribulations.

b. Perseverance produces character. Perseverance is like gold put into the furnace, or a sword is put into the furnace to be refined by fire! When Christians suffer for Christ's sake, and not for their own glory, it produces character in them! A good sword and the best gold must be tried and proven to endure testing! Likewise, for a well-tested Christian, he knows that divine consolation abounds while suffering abounds.

b. Character produces hope. And this was his main point! The end of all tribulations results in hope! Christians can rejoice in their tribulations because it is the necessary sanctifying process by which they are molded to be the likeness of Christ! Everything begins with hope but also ends in hope! What a mystery!

You see, Christians glory in their tribulations because all tribulations point them to the eschatological glory that they will receive when they are in glory! When Christians view their current sufferings in light of the future hope that we will receive, we are saying that we do not belong here. In other words, we are pilgrims! It means that we are just passing by, this is not our final destination, our final destination is in heaven! Our hope is in the future, in consummation, the end of our pilgrimage journey, which is also the end of our tribulations! This is the reason why we can rejoice now in our tribulations, we are looking at our tribulations in light of our glorious hope of the day when we will be received into glory!

Finally, in verse 5, Paul explained that the Holy Spirit who works hope in our hearts cause us to love God firmly.

Paul also explained how Christians are able to hope. The Holy Spirit reminds us of God's love for us. This love is given in abundance. You see, this is not about our love towards God, but God's love for us, which sets the foundation upon which our hope is built! **It is only when you know how much God loves you, will you be able to confidently wait for heaven and endure persecutions.**

Lessons:

1. **Because we are justified, we are able to rejoice in our tribulations, whatever they may be. How can we rejoice in tribulations? Well, when we go through our tribulations the Holy Spirit sanctifies us.** We may go through the fiery furnace, the Holy Spirit uses that to mold us, to conform us into the likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 12:2. So we can rejoice in his good work.
2. **We must glory in tribulations because our sufferings are small potatoes** compared to our treasures are in heaven! **This is a wonderful reminder to the suffering Christians that their sufferings point them forward to the future glory!** This is what keeps Pastor Bronson's while he is suffering under Turkish persecution...or Bibi Asia in a Pakistani prison.
3. **We glory in our tribulation because** the Lord will use the troubles we experience to be a blessing to others. Let me illustrate: My classmate once asked my counseling professor, "What can we do to become good counselors?" He said to us, "there is nothing you can really do but to personally go through tribulations and suffering!" Now that might be an exaggeration, but when we experience some difficulty we can encourage others who might be going through the same things.
4. **Let us be an encouragement to our suffering brothers and sisters,** pray for them, may be write a letter to encourage them, and remind them that they are suffering for the sake of Christ, and that they are shining bright in those dark places! Remind them of the hope that is so certain but not yet seen or experienced in its fullness.

CONCLUSION

Paul here in these verses was telling us that there are benefits to those who are justified by faith through the imputation of the righteousness of Jesus. First, **we have peace with God**, which means that God no longer stood against us as enemies, but we are His friends. Second, we also by the grace of God, **have access to God**, which means that we have all blessedness and we can approach His throne of grace with confidence. Third, we **have hope for the future glory**. Fourth, we can **rejoice in our current tribulations**, not according to our own strength, but the Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee to what is to come!

Brothers and sisters, are you rejoicing in the future hope when one day we will no longer sin? Yes, we will experience tribulations in our lives. Yes, there will be people who hate us and who want to see us lose hope in the Lord. But take heart, the Lord Jesus told us that those people hate us only because they hate God. Let us be reminded that our current sufferings are no comparison to the future glory that we will inherit! Let us therefore, dwell in the love of God, for it has been poured out to us by the Holy Spirit, who resides in us! And let us believe that He who has started the good work will complete it to the very end! Rejoice, brothers and sisters! Rejoice!

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you are not in a very good position. You do not get to enjoy the privileges of a Christian until you put your faith in the Lord Jesus. The day will come when you will stand in front of the judgement seat of God, all alone. But if you put your faith in Christ and turn from your sins today, Christ shall be your defender, and you may have peace with God! So therefore, come! Come and taste and see that the Lord is good!

Let us pray.