

**Standing in the Security of His Grace
Provisions of our Justification**

Introduction: Last week we worked to fully understand what it means to be “justified” and the implications for believers.

- Justification means we have been acquitted of our guilt before God, rendered righteous and guiltless before God. It is a past act, already declared guiltless.
- Justification was initiated by God—a divine act of the Father whereby He handed over His Son to die and His death was vindicated when the Spirit raised Him from the dead (Trinitarian act)
- Justification is appropriated by faith in that act of God—believe it was for me
- Justification is certain, God can be trusted to keep His word

Today’s text: We are invited by Paul to join him in celebrating the marvelous benefits conferred upon the justified believer.

“We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.” (2)

IMPORTANT: In this text, Paul explains that believers have already had a changed relationship with God (past act), have been placed in a completely new realm (present reality), and will one day experience an incredible reward (future hope).

I. Our justification has resulted in a changed RELATIONSHIP with God (PAST ACT).

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 NKJV

A. We have “peace with God.”

1. Used in LXX translates wide-ranging Hebrew word “shalom”.
2. Here it’s beyond negative use in secular Greek—“peace as the cessation of or absence of hostilities.”
3. More like—“wellbeing, prosperity, or salvation of a godly person.”

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:26 NKJV

4. Paul’s peace is not an inner sense of wellbeing or “feeling of peace.”

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7 NKJV

5. It is the outward situation of being in a relationship of peace WITH God.
6. As we will see, it is a change of relationship with God that occurred at our justification.

B. Through our Lord Jesus Christ

1. This change of relationship (reconciliation) could only be achieved through Jesus Christ.
2. Like justification, it is only possible through Him.
3. All through Jesus Christ

And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:11 NKJV

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23 NKJV

I thank God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Romans 7:25 NKJV

Nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39 NKJV

NOTE: Last verse of all chapters in this section

C. Understanding the changed relationship

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:10-11 NKJV

3 Fold

IMPORTANT:

NOTE: Justification is legal language, law-court language. Reconciliation is relationship language.

NOTE ALSO: Reconciliation—to bring together or make peace between two estranged parties.

TRUTH: Most often religions do not use reconciliation language because deity is not in relationship with humanity.

Two aspects/movements of Pauline reconciliation

✓ Objective (accomplishment of reconciliation)

That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19 NKJV

✓ Subjective—(acceptance by believer)

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

1. Former Status—enemies of God (5:10)

NOTE: Not just us rebellious toward Him, but He is committed to his wrath on us.

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. Romans 2:5 NKJV

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness. Romans 1:18 NKJV

NOTE: Outside of relationship with God we are His enemies.

2. Father's Substitute—"through the death of His Son." (5:10)

- a. He became an enemy
- b. Wrath on Him
- c. Curse for us

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree") Galatians 3:13 NKJV

- d. He became what we were so we can become what He is.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:16-17 NKJV

3. Full Salvation—“We shall be saved by His life.” (10)

- a. Literally (saved with the life HE provided)
- b. Whosoever believeth should not perish/everlasting life
- c. Where I am there you will be also
- d. Presented to the Father

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. Jude 24 NKJV

- e. Changed relationship—ENEMY—FAULTLESS HEIR

II. Our justification has resulted in a changed REALM in which we now live (PRESENT REALITY).

Through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:2 NKJV

- A. By Jesus Christ we not only have a changed relationship, but a changed realm in which we live.
- B. Rather than the realm of law we now stand in the realm of grace.

So that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:21 NKJV

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:14 NKJV

1. Grace in which we stand is more than the way God acts.
2. It is more than the gifts He gives.
3. It is a realm or a domain.

C. Revelation of this standing

1. Its consistency is tied to the unchanging character of God rather than my own waffling nature.
 - a. Grace in which I stand
 - b. Not in and out
 - c. Tied to finished work of Calvary

2. Provides me the spiritual courage and wherewithal to resist sin.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. Titus 2:11-12 NKJV

NOTE: Before grace I was a slave to sin.

3. Strengthens my assurance that I am accepted

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29 NKJV

4. Enables me to endure trials and yet reflect Christ

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV

5. Ensures perpetual mercy for my weaknesses

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 NKJV

III. Our justification has resulted in a changed HOPE (FUTURE GLORY).

5:2c "...we rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

OR—"The hope we have of sharing God's glory."

A. The glory of God

1. Lost

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 NKJV

- a. This is God-likeness
- b. Destroyed in the fall

2. Restored in the last day

And if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:17 NKJV

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18 NKJV

Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Romans 8:21 NKJV

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Romans 8:30 NKJV

B. Justification has given us hope of restoration.

C. No doubt Paul's critics would question how they could have peace with God and face what they were facing (illness, persecution, trials of every kind).

NOTE: Paul argues that not only does suffering NOT overthrow the reality of God's blessings, rather they are occasions for rejoicing!

D. Progression of believer's hope

1. Hope's pathway

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4 NKJV

a. Those trials produce perseverance (endurance)

NOTE: Required to run this race.

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1 NKJV

(Pain produces perseverance/endurance)

(ILL) Running Mini

b. Perseverance builds character—godliness, steadfastness, trust in God's wisdom that time will change things

c. Character produces hope

Moo—"Suffering, rather than threatening or weakening our hope, as we might expect to be the case, instead increases our certainty of that hope." (3030)

(ILL) Hope is like a muscle that must be used and exercised.

(ILL) Coleman

2. Hope's Certainty

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. Romans 5:5 NKJV

- a. On the Day of Judgment it will not disappoint—put us to shame. What we have built our home and lives on will not prove inadequate! (My hope is built...!)
- b. Our certainty is not just objective. It can be subjectively believed because we have had the love of God poured out in our hearts.
 - ✓ This is a subjective experience
 - ✓ Can feel Him, know Him for sure

3. Hope's Foundation—Objective part

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:6-9 NKJV

- a. Human love, at its best will motivate a person to give his or her life for a truly good person (7).

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. Romans 5:7 NKJV

- b. Christ, sent by God, died not for righteous people, or even good people, but for the rebellious and underserving people.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:8 NKJV

- c. Therefore, God's love is far greater in its magnitude and dependability from even the greatest human love.

For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:8 NKJV

NOTE: The objective FACT of God's love is that Christ died for us when we were yet sinners. The subjective EXPERIENCE of God's love is that love poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

d. Hope's Inexhaustibility

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:9 NKJV

- If God did the difficult thing, reconciled and justified unworthy sinners...
- How much more can we depend on Him to save us from the eschatological wrath that is come? The much easier task.

Conclusion: Because I am justified by faith through His blood...

1. My relationship has changed with God

- Not an enemy, but a son!

2. My realm has changed.

- Living in grace, not under the law—24/7 access to this grace.

3. My hope has changed.

- Future reward—glorified like Him.