

THE GRACE OF GOD | “Rejoice in the Blessings of Justification”

Romans 5:1-11

Ken Lewis, Senior Pastor

Lord's Day, March 19, 2017

Justification: Is a declarative act of God where He pronounces a guilty sinner as righteous.

The Blessings of Justification:

1. We have peace with God (5:1).
2. We have access to God (5:2a).
3. We rejoice in hope of the glory of God (5:2b).

4. We rejoice in our sufferings (5:3-8).

Two reasons:

(1) Because suffering ultimately produces hope (vv. 3-4)

- We have a way of living that is both sobering and satisfying.
James 1:2-4 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- God sets in motion a process that produces endurance, character, and hope (v. 3b-4).
 - Suffering produces endurance (v. 3b).
 - Endurance produces character (v. 4a).
Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.
 - Character produces hope (v. 4b).
- God turns our sufferings into times of spiritual growth and discovery.
Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
 - Suffering refines us.
 - Suffering reveals rival sources of confidence and hope.
 - Suffering exposes our false foundations.
Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

If you face suffering with a mindset of justification by works, the suffering will break you, not make you. When people functionally seek salvation by works and bad stuff happens they immediately feel punished for their sins because they have not lived up to their man-made standard.

(2) Because the hope that suffering produces is grounded in the gospel (vv. 5-8).

- Subjective—God has flooded our hearts with his love through the Holy Spirit (v. 5)
- Objective—God has proven his love for us through Christ's sacrificial death (vv. 6-8).
 - We are unworthy recipients of God's costly gift
The more the gift cost the giver, and the less the recipient deserves it, the greater the love is seen to be.

- The love of God is not like our love (v. 7).

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die

5. We have confidence that we will be saved from God's wrath (vv. 9-11).

Two reasons:

1) Because we have been justified by Christ's blood (v. 9).

Romans 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

2) Because we were reconciled to God by Christ's death (v. 10).

Romans 8:33–34 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- Joy is the great marker of the justified person.

11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Benediction

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.