

Victorious – Saved w/ Benefits

9/21/25

Romans 5:1–5

Sunday AM

A young engineering graduate fresh out of MIT was interviewing for his 1<sup>st</sup> job when the HR rep asked, “How much starting salary are you expecting?” He replied, “\$250k w/ benefits.” In response, the HR rep said, “How about (5) weeks’ paid vacation, (14) paid holidays, full medical/dental, a fully funded 401k, and a leased Corvette every 2 yrs?” He said, “Wow! Are you kidding?” She said, “Yes... but you started it.”

Have you ever thought about the benefits that come w/ belonging to Christ and being a Christian? In Romans 5:1–5, Paul lays out a believer’s benefits package that no company on earth can rival.

*Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace w/ God thru our Lord Jesus Christ. Thru Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope doesn’t put us to shame, b/c God’s love has been poured into our hearts thru the H.S. who has been given to us.* Romans 5:1–5

To be **justified** is a legal term meaning that God has rendered a verdict that in spite of our sin – we’re now declared righteous or *as if we’ve never sinned*.

As we looked at last week – all of us have been infected w/ the fatal disease of sin, and as a result, we’re all separated from God b/c the wages of sin is death (or separation). But God in His great love for us, humbled Himself by incarcerating Himself in human flesh in the person of Jesus to die an old rugged cross for our forgiveness.

In doing so, He exchanged His life for our life so that we could be rescued into a relationship w/ Him thru His sacrifice on the cross to account for our sin.

**IOW** – He paid a debt He did not owe, while we owe a debt we cannot pay – and Jesus paid for it all in full. The result is that we’ve been saved from the **penalty** of sin, we’re being saved from the **power** of sin, and we’ll ultimately be saved from the **presence** of sin.

**Result** – B/c we’ve been justified by faith, we have (4) blood-bought benefits—<sup>1</sup> peace w/ God, <sup>2</sup> access to grace, <sup>3</sup> the hope of glory, and <sup>4</sup> purpose in suffering.

Benefit #1 – **PEACE** w/ God

*Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace w/ God thru our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The 1<sup>st</sup> benefit is possibly the best and most essential benefit b/c prior to experiencing God’s grace we were all at war w/ God – but now, thru Christ, a treatise (or covenant) has been inked in His blood providing peace.

**LME** – We’re all born at enmity w/ God – separated from and at war against Him b/c of the infection of sin. In our fallen condition, we might say, “I have nothing against God,” but that’s not the point – God has something against us – He’s holy, holy, holy – and we’re sinners at odds w/ His glory and holiness.

*But your iniquities have separated you from your God – and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.* Isaiah 59:2

*The greatest warfare in the world today is b/w mankind and God. People may not realize they are at war w/ God, but if they don't know Jesus as Savior, and if they haven't surrendered to Him as Lord, God considers them to be at war w/ Him. Billy Graham*

When Adam/Eve sinned, they were immediately cut off from fellowship w/ God and a wedge of enmity was driven b/w them and God. We learn in Genesis that prior to their sin, they **walked** w/ God in Eden; but after they sinned, they hid themselves and God had to look for them. Before they sinned, they **talked** w/ God; but after they sinned, we see them running from Him b/c the peace that once was present b/w them was lost.

But when Jesus laid down His life on the cross, a bridge of grace was rebuilt, the barrier of sin was removed, and the result is now we can be reconciled w/ God thru His blood providing us w/ His acceptance and His peace.

This is what the phrase – **having been justified by faith we have peace w/ God** refers to. B/c of the cross, instead of enmity we now have acceptance and God, as judge, has rendered a verdict that brings us peace.

**Picture a courtroom**. The Law exposes us as sinners who've fallen short of God's holiness. So, Satan, as prosecutor, accuses us of every sinful thing we've ever done wrong. As Judge, God asks us, "Are his accusations true?" And b/c we're sinners, we can only whisper, "Yes, Your Honor." But before God can render a deserving judgment, Jesus steps in to advocate on our behalf presenting – his shed blood on the cross as exhibit A – and suddenly, the Judge drops His gavel to render a verdict of "not guilty". This is justification – we're declared righteous before God as if we've never sinned – bringing us peace w/ Him.

**peace** (*eirēnē*) echoes Heb. **shalom** – meaning to make whole or to be rightly aligned. So, thru the cross – we have peace w/ God that brings us the peace of God – *for He Himself is our peace* (see Ephesians 2:14)

Benefit #2 – **ACCESS** to Grace

*Thru Him we have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.*

**You see** – not only have we received the benefit of peace w/ God, we've also received the blessing of the **presence** of God – granting us direct **access** to Him.

**DYK** that under the old covenant, there were barriers hindering access to God. In the Temple, Gentiles could only go as far as the Gentile court. Women could only go as far as the Court of Women. Men could only go as far as the Court of Men. Even the priest could only go as far as the priestly court, while just (1) man, the High Priest, could walk behind the veil into the Holy of Holies – and only once a year w/ blood. But when Jesus died, the veil was torn from top to bottom providing us direct access to God by grace thru faith.

**access** refers to a royal introduction. In the ancient world, you didn't just stroll into a king's presence, you had to be brought in by someone w/ authority.

Wuest notes *prosagōgē* was used of a man whose job was to secure an audience w/ the king on behalf of others and then insure the guest were properly clothed. That's what Jesus has done for us – He has clothed us w/ His righteousness to usher us into God's presence.

It's like the boy who came to see the king of England, but was turned away by the guards at Buckingham Palace. As he stood there weeping, a well-dressed man, hearing his story, invited the lad to take his hand and walk w/ him. As they approached the guards, they snapped to attention opening the gates. The boy was led down the halls straight into the throne room. Where the man bowed and said, "Father, I've brought a friend." Only then did the boy realize he was holding the hand of the Prince of Wales – the son of the king.

**Listen** – it's one thing to have *acceptance*, it's quite another to have *access*. In Christ, we now have access into His presence 24/7 – 365. When the veil in the Temple was torn, Jesus made a way for us to go directly into God's presence where we can go at any time and speak w/ Him about anything we so desire.

Benefit #3 – **HOPE** of Glory

*we rejoice in hope of the glory of God*

To **rejoice in the hope of God's glory** refers to His future return – not just to being *saved*, but to being *sure* and *secure* in our salvation upon His return.

We're not talking finger-crossing wishful hope, but a ***total confidence*** rooted in His promises/resurrection.

I believe this benefit is more than a promise of heaven, but also a commission to live each moment of every day in the expectation of His return. This is what the Olivet discourse is all about in Matthew 24 – it's a call to set our hearts and minds on things above so that we live not solely for the earthly, but also for the eternal.

*Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you will get neither.* C. S. Lewis

There's (1) final benefit Paul shares in this text that's relevant for our lives today living in a fallen world.

Benefit #4 – **PURPOSE** in Suffering

*but we rejoice in our sufferings knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope doesn't put us to shame...*

The final benefit has to do w/ our lives here until He returns to take us home – in that while we eagerly await His return, we still live w/ Divine meaning and purpose in this sinful, fallen world – and that even in the challenging parts of life, God is at work in/thru us.

As we've discussed before – to **rejoice** is to constantly return to the source of our joy – which is Jesus – in this case no matter our earthly situations/circumstances.

**Not to be Joey rain cloud**, but we need to realize that no one will get thru life in this sinful, fallen world unscathed. We'll all face trials/tribulations. The bigger question is are these challenges helping or hindering?

**sufferings** (*thlipsis*) means to put under pressure or to crush – used for pressing olives or grapes – and refers to making the most of trying times, trials/tribulations.

The English word comes from a Latin word **tribulum**. In Paul's day, a tribulum was a heavy piece of timber w/ spikes used by farmers to thresh grain. The farmer would take this tool and swing it thru the grain to separating the wheat from the chaff.

When correctly understood, God uses difficulty (trials/tribulations) to thresh our lives – to eliminate the unnecessary to build in us what's needed to build spiritual stamina. These trials produce endurance to align us under God; endurance then shapes our character – and character creates hope to enable us to run thru the finish-line w/out collapsing.

God allows, even authors, trying moments to build spiritual muscle to align our lives w/ His Word and will to see us thru the finish-line of the Christian race.

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so the genuineness of your faith, of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honor when Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

*The Lord gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction. C. H. Spurgeon*

**Personally**, I've discovered (2) things in my journey w/ trials/tribulations – (1) God allows what we might hate to accomplish in us what He loves to align us w/ His Word/will; (2) God can seldom use or bless a man greatly until He has humbled him deeply.

These are the (4) benefits of being justified by faith – we have <sup>1</sup> peace w/ God, <sup>2</sup> access to grace, <sup>3</sup> the hope of glory, and <sup>4</sup> purpose in suffering.

**WTM** – I want to give you (3) practical principles that you can apply to your life today from this message.

**1 – Stand in God's Grace – Stop Striving.** Start each day reminding yourself *who* you are b/c of *whose* you are. You're a child of God justified by His grace thru faith and are now at peace w/ God. Live in His peace.

**2 – Reframe Hardship** – Recognize that God is at work in the easy times and challenging times to align your life to His will, to shape your character, and to build spiritual muscle to see you thru the finish-line.

**3 – Preach the Gospel to Yourself** – When guilt/fear resurfaces, answer it w/ Romans 5:1 – I have peace w/ God thru my Jesus. Say to yourself – I'm no longer God's enemy, I am a beloved child/friend of God.

**DYK** who Bedouins are? Bedouins are desert nomads who travel the Middle East living in tents herding camels, sheep, and goats – and they still exist today.

There's a true story of (2) Bedouins who were arguing when their argument broke into a fight in which one man killed the other. Knowing the inflexible custom of his people – *an eye for eye, a tooth for tooth, and a life for life* – the man who survived knew that his life was in jeopardy as someone would be coming to avenge the blood of the man he killed. Knowing this, he fled across the desert to the tent of a respected tribal chief seeking asylum. He confessed to his crime, yet pled for protection. As custom in Bedouin culture, the elder chief arose, put his hand on the ropes of the tent, and swore by God to give the man his protection. The next day, when his avengers arrived demanding the chief release him over to them – the chief refused sharing that he'd sworn his protection. Still, the avengers demanded – "Turn him over to us. He killed a man." Yet again, the chief refused saying, "I've given my promise. He's under my protection." They replied, "But you don't know who he killed." The chief said, "It doesn't matter. He's under my asylum." To which the avengers said, "But he killed your son." Stunned, the old chief fell to the ground, visibly shaken, but then gathering himself, stood up, and said to the pursuers, "Then he shall become my son, and everything I have will one day be his."

**In many ways** – this is what God has done for us? When we were guilty, b/c of our sin, of participating in the execution of His Son – when we come by faith to receive His grace – He offers us asylum – and even more, He's adopted us to be His sons/daughters – and gives us every benefit of being His children. We have His acceptance. We have complete/immediate access into His presence. We have the promise of His return. And we have the joy of His presence w/ us every day this side of heaven.

**These are the benefits of being justified by faith – the question is – have you been justified by receiving Christ as your Savior/Lord?**