

Unit II. Faith and Salvation

Seeking Reconciliation

DEVOTIONAL READING: Isaiah 53:1-12

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-11

PRINT PASSAGE: Romans 5:1-11

Key Verse—Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1, KJV)

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Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1, NIV)

Lesson Aims

As a result of experiencing this lesson, you should be able to do these things:

- Identify the relationship between faith in Christ and justification in the sight of God.
- Repent of personal failures to obtain the peace that God gives.
- Celebrate your justification through faith in Christ.

*Key Terms

Access (verse 2)—Greek: *prosagóge* (pros-ag-ogue-ay'): a bringing to; to have contact with.

Glory (verse 2)—Greek: *doxa* (dox'-ah): praise; honor; the unspoken manifestation of God.

Grace (verse 2)—Greek: *charis* (khar'-ece): a gift or blessing brought to man by Jesus Christ; kindness.

Hope (verse 2)—Greek: *elpis* (el-pece'): expectation; trust; confidence.

Justified (verse 1)—Greek: *dikaioó* (dik-ah-yo'-o): shown to be righteous; declared righteous.

Peace (verse 1)—Greek: *eiréné* (i-ray'-nay): oneness; quietness; rest; peace of mind.

*(Word Study Supplement—Refer to page 2)

Life Happens

Tavares has a great job lined up for after he graduates from college. His original plan was to move to New York, work for his favorite sports team, and kick it with his friends who were also moving there. Well, Covid-19 modified that plan. He is thankful to still have a job, but he will not be moving to New York or travelling excessively. The team decided that everyone would work from home indefinitely, which means that Tavares will be living in his parents' basement. As a twenty-three-year-old, this is not what Tavares had planned.

During this time, Tavares has been working out with Mom and Dad and cooking family dinner a few days a week. Before he left for college, his parents were not in a good place, and Tavares wanted to change that.



Overview

The lessons in this unit have focused on Paul's assessment of the state of sinful humanity and their need for God's gift of righteousness that is only available through genuine faith in Jesus Christ and His saving work. In chapter 5, Paul shifts his focus to the profound hope that is available to the believer because of Christ's death. Believers are afforded the privilege of peace with God and hope of deliverance from God's wrath and reconciliation with Him. Two words capture the essence of Paul's message: *justified* and *faith*. The first, *justify*, derives from the Greek word *dikaiōthentes*, meaning "to render just or innocent." When individuals are justified, they are declared righteous through their faith in Christ. The second, *faith*, derives from the Greek word *pisteōs*, meaning "to trust or to believe." Thus, we are justified *through faith* (see Romans 5:1) and given access to God *by faith* (see Romans 5:2).

Romans 5:6-8 has often been called the "John 3:16 of Romans." In three verses Paul describes the incomparable and extraordinary love that God demonstrated by His willingness to pay the ultimate price for the sins of the world—sending His Son to die for us while we were still sinners (verse 8).

through faith, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 2 through whom we have gained *access* by faith into this *grace* in which we now stand. And we boast in the *hope* of the *glory* of God.
 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.
 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Eight months have passed, and Tavares is still at home with his parents and in a much better place with his family, working and learning the ropes.

Questions

1. What plans have you had to alter due to Covid-19?
2. What decisions have you made based on these changes?
3. How are you holding up mentally and physically? How are your relationships with family and friends?

COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLICAL TEXT

Believers Are Justified by Faith (Romans 5:1-5)

KJV

THEREFORE BEING *justified* by faith, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have *access* by faith into this *grace* wherein we stand, and rejoice in *hope* of the *glory* of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

NIV

THEREFORE, SINCE we have been *justified*

Because of Christ's sacrifice, Christians have been justified before God (pronounced "not guilty") and released from the penalty of sin. *Justification* is the state of being declared righteous by God and worthy of salvation. God justifies the believer and releases him or her from the penalty of sin—a release that is only possible because of Jesus' blood sacrifice for our sins at Calvary. Salvation makes every believer eligible for adoption into the family of God and the experience of eternal life. Those who have been justified enjoy peace with God (**verse 1**) as well as access to the covering of God's grace (**verse 2a**). Having gained access to God's grace through faith, believers can rejoice in the hope of God's glory (**verse 2b**). The "boast in suffering" Paul mentioned is not an arrogant or foolish amusement with hardship, but a strong, resilient joy that is not swayed by outward circumstances because of the Christian's firm hope in God. Although suffering is unpleasant, Paul insisted that the Christian can endure it with joy because it produces a more lasting spiritual benefit—perseverance (**verse 3**). That is why Jesus taught His disciples to rejoice in persecution (see Matthew 5:11-12). Perseverance and endurance build character, and eventually hope (**verse 4**). Such hope (e.g., expectation and confidence in God), will not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (**verse 5**). Nothing is better than that.

 **What Do You Think?** We have all experienced suffering. Do you think Paul's assessment is correct: suffering produces endurance and strengthens one's ability to live by faith, totally trusting God?

While We Were Yet Sinners . . . Christ Died for Us (*Romans 5:6-8*)

KJV

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

NIV


6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Before salvation, we were powerless against the force and penalty of sin, without hope of escaping the wrath of God, which was death (see Romans 6:23). However, at the "right time," says Paul, Christ died in our place and for our benefit (**verse 6**). God loved us dearly and, at our lowest point—while we were still lost in our sin—He sent Jesus to carry out His plan to save us. Paul magnified the significance of Jesus' sacrifice for sinners by noting that the average person is barely willing to give up his/her life for a righteous person. By contrast, God proved the depth of His love by doing for us what no one else would likely do—dying for us while we are still unworthy sinners (**verse 7**). Paul added, but God "*demonstrates*" His love for us in that while we were yet in sin, Christ *died* for us (**verse 8**). Here are three words to consider in verse 8: first, *demonstrates* is in the present tense, implying even today; when we sin, God *demonstrates* His love for us continually and it is available for us tomorrow and forever. Second, *died* is in the past tense, meaning Christ's suffering and death at Calvary was once and for all and does not have to

be redone—that is, Christ’s sacrificial death is good for all eternity (see 1 Peter 3:18). Third, God’s *love* is *agape*, love that loves unconditionally and sacrificially.

 **What Do You Think?** Paul describes the unsaved as “powerless.” Given that every person has free will, in what ways are sinners powerless in the presence of sin? Explain.

Justified by the Blood of Jesus Christ (*Romans 5:9-11*)

KJV

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

NIV

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!
10 For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Paul says that since “we” have been justified and counted righteous, the blood of Christ has saved us (**verse 9**). To be justified is to be declared righteous by God. The means by which we are reconciled to God is the shed blood of Jesus. Paul used the word *we* to include himself and every believer who has been saved by God’s grace through faith. “We,” Paul declares, have been justified by Christ’s blood (**verse 9**). “We” enter into a right relationship with God by Christ’s work on the Cross. “We” therefore have been saved from the wrath of God (**verse 9**). While “we” were enemies of God, it is by Christ’s death that “we” were reconciled and saved (**verse 10**). Christ’s death opened the door of God’s grace, which is available to everyone who believes in Jesus. Thus, because we are justified, as believers we have peace with God. We are no longer enemies to God (**verse 10**). Paul concludes that if there remains any reason to boast, it is not in ourselves but in the fact that we have been reconciled with God through Jesus Christ (**verse 11**). Knowing that salvation is a gift rather than the result of human effort eliminates the right to boast. What we have received comes from God, not ourselves. The relationship and access we are privileged to have would have been impossible without Christ’s sacrifice at Calvary. Through Jesus, God’s demand for justice has been satisfied once and for all. Jesus stood in our place to bear the punishment we deserved for our sins, and we have been reconciled to our God. Amen!

 **What Do You Think?** How would you explain to others the significance of Jesus’ taking the full weight of God’s punishment for sin upon Himself at the Cross? Explain.

Your Life

Having been justified by faith through the blood of Christ, you are at peace with God and have access to God's grace. This grace allows you to glory in tribulations. May this lesson move you to repent of personal failures to obtain the peace that God gives.

Your World!

Christ died to deliver the world from the penalty of sin. Sin comes with guilt, shame, and the penalty of facing God's judgment. The price for sin is death—that is, an eternal separation from God's presence. That is why the whole world needs Jesus.



Closing Prayer Lord, we are grateful for Your mercy and love that justify us and welcome us as sons and daughters. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Home Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY , July 26	"Obey God with Heart and Voice"	(Deuteronomy 30:6-14)
TUESDAY , July 27	"God's Salvation Is Announced"	(Isaiah 52:1-10)
WEDNESDAY , July 28	"Call on the Name of the Lord"	(Joel 2:28-32)
THURSDAY , July 29	"Gentiles Believe by Faith"	(Galatians 3:6-14)
FRIDAY , July 30	"For the Salvation of the Gentiles"	(Romans 10:1-4)
SATURDAY , July 31	"Regret for Not Hearing Christ's Word"	(Romans 10:18-21)
SUNDAY , August 1	"Salvation Is for All People"	(Romans 10:5-17)

Notes
