

Blessings and Benefits for Christians

Romans 5:1-11

Romans 5:1-11 - *“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.*

⁶ 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.¹⁰ 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.”

Background Notes

Chapters 5 through 8 of Romans form one of the sub-units in the book of Romans. We could entitle this sub-unit **The Great Privileges of the Justified Believer**. In Romans 3 the whole world is shown to be guilty before God -- but what a happy day it is to come to the end of Romans 3 and on into Romans 4, and find that God does have a plan of salvation for guilty sinners! That plan of salvation is by grace through faith – God’s grace and our faith. God’s grace provided the Lord Jesus as the perfect Sacrifice and Substitute for us as sinners. And our faith, not in addition to works, and not as a work in itself, but faith alone is the means by which we receive the free gift of salvation. Notice that all the way through Romans salvation is not **because of faith**, but **by faith** – that is the means by which we receive salvation.

All believers should breathe a sigh of relief when we read the first verse of Romans 5: *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have[a] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...”* Remember, justified means to be declared righteous. We have been declared righteous right now -- not when we die, or when we become better Christians. No, we have been declared righteous, period! In chapters 5 - 8 we have the great privileges of the justified believer, and in Romans 5:1-11 we have some of the great blessings and benefits of our salvation.

Doctrinal Points

1. God's package of salvation includes peace with God.

Verse 1: *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..."* Peace with God means that we are no longer at odds with God, we are no longer in a state of war with God, and we are no longer alienated from God. Peace has been declared because of what God has done for us through Christ. If you are not a Christian, you may "feel" at peace, but you're not truly at peace with God. But if you're a Christian, you **are** at peace with God. Even though you don't always have peaceful feelings, God's package of salvation includes peace with God.

2. God's package of salvation includes favor with God.

Verse 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."* The idea here is that believers are in the "sphere of God's favor." We are **continually** in the sphere of His favor, not just when we are good and obedient, but always. This is the amazing position in which we stand before Almighty God. Our standing before God is so favorable that we can call Him "Abba" (the Hebrew word for Father) when we address Him! We are in His family. What a blessed position! We can go right into the presence of God with boldness (Hebrews 10:19), knowing that we are always in the sphere of His favor. God's package of salvation includes favor with God.

3. God's package of salvation include hope of glory.

Verse 2: *"And rejoice in hope of the glory of God."* The idea here is that we look forward to heaven when we will be with the Lord in glory, and that is a **sure** hope. It's not a "we hope it's true" kind of hope -- it's a sure hope! It's only called a "hope" because it's out there in the future. God's package of salvation includes hope of glory. Notice that in these first three blessings we have our past, present, and future. We have been justified and given peace with God -- that's our past. We are now in a place of favor with God -- that's our present. And we know that one day we will be with the Lord in glory -- that's our future. What a package!

4. God's package of salvation includes joy in tribulations.

Verses 3-4 *"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."* And that hope doesn't disappoint! "Glorying in tribulations" doesn't mean that we jump for joy when we have a car accident, or that we shout "Praise the Lord" when we find out that we have heart disease, or some other trouble or difficulty. That's not the idea. No, the point is that we can rejoice, even in times of trouble and tribulation, because we know that God is in control and has a purpose in our problems.

Tribulations are used by God to teach us patience and perseverance, to build character, and, yes, to give us hope! How do tribulations give us hope for the future? Tribulations keep us from getting too satisfied with the "here and now." They help us keep our eyes focused on what's eternal and not on what's temporal. Tribulations will actually strengthen our faith if we trust the Lord. So when things are not going so well for you, you can be glad when you realize that God is at work in your life! God's package of salvation includes joy, even in tribulations.

5. God's package of salvation includes assurance of salvation.

That's all here in verses 5-10: "*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.* ⁶ *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.* ¹⁰ *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.*" Do you ever doubt your salvation? Read Romans 5: 5-10! How do you know that your faith is strong enough, and you haven't lost your faith because of trials or because of tribulations? Read Romans 5: 5-10! It's a great passage of assurance.

In these verses we find both the subjective proof and the objective proof that gives us assurance of our salvation. The subjective proof is the love of God that we have in our hearts. Those warm feelings of love for God are not natural, because the unbeliever is not in love with God. We only have those warm feelings of love for God because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, and only believers have the Holy Spirit.

And then think of the objective proof. Christ died on the cross in history -- His death is a **fact of history**. Now for whom did He die? For good people? No, for ungodly people! Look at verse 8: "*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us...*" Now if Christ died for us when we were sinners, would He not finish the job, and keep us safe and secure from the wrath of God now that He's living? Verses 9-10: "*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.* ¹⁰ *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.*" How much more assurance could we ever want?! Our justification didn't depend on us, and neither does our eternal security. God's package of salvation includes assurance of salvation.

6. God's package of salvation includes our reconciliation.

"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." Can you give me a theological definition of reconciliation? Reconciliation is more than justification, and justification is more than redemption. In **redemption** we are bought and brought out of the slave market of sin and forgiven for our sins. In **justification** we are more than just forgiven for our sins, we are declared righteous. In **reconciliation** we are more than just forgiven and declared righteous, we are brought into a wonderful, beautiful, harmonious relationship with God! Notice, in verse 10, that God was not reconciled to us, we were reconciled to God. We were the problem, not God. And if we were reconciled to God through Christ's death (v10), how much more are we secure because the Lord is alive and living to keep us in that blessed state of reconciliation! God's package of salvation include our reconciliation.

Practical Application

Let's not forget to thank the Lord for more than "fire insurance."

If we're believers, surely we have thanked the Lord for saving us from the fires of hell. But have we thanked the Lord for the blessings and benefits of Romans 5:1-11, including the blessing of exalting and rejoicing in God Himself (v11)? When did you last thank the Lord for your assurance of salvation? When did you last thank the Lord for your reconciliation? When did you last thank the Lord for your tribulations and problems? (That's not easy, is it?) We can thank the Lord for all these things -- and we should, because all these things are part of God's great package of salvation for us! Let's not forget to thank the Lord for more than "fire insurance."