

Romans Lesson 4
5:1-21

THE BENEFITS OF BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH ALONE

To be justified by faith in the gospel (1:16-17; 3:22, 28) is to receive the gift of righteousness (5:17) which is the righteousness of Jesus Christ credited or imputed to you.

Romans 5 begins to unfold some of the benefits of this new standing before God.

Eight Benefits of a Right Standing with God

5:1-21

1. Peace with God! 1

There is peace “with” God meaning hostility and enmity have been ended by forgiveness and reconciliation.

The “peace of God” is a state of mind that comes when in our circumstances we turn to God in prayer and reliance (Phil. 4:6-7).

2. Passport to a Permanent standing in grace 2

KJV speaks of us gaining our “introduction into the grace in which we permanently stand (perfect tense). The Greek word is prosagogen which means “the act of bringing to, moving to; access, approach.”

1 Peter 3:18 Christ suffered to bring us to God.

Ephesians 2:18 “For through him we both (Jew and Gentile) have access/introduction to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 3:12 “In him and through faith in him we may approach God (access) with freedom and confidence.”

There is no outer court for believers in Christ. We have a permanent standing before the throne on the merits of the Son. We are out of court and now in the family.

3. Purpose in our Pressure: 3-4

God’s children have never been exempt from trials and pressures in this life (Joseph, Job, Daniel, Peter, Paul). But we have a divine Comforter making the journey with us. We have divine promises that God is in charge even in our sorrows. He says, “My grace is sufficient” to His child, while the world has no such help.

4. Promises for the Future: 4- 5

We have hope about the future. Hope is a divine optimism that the promises of God will be fulfilled. Instead of fear that dreads the future God’s children have great things to look forward in the future:

Rapture, Resurrection, Return of Christ to the Earth, Rewards, Reign with Christ, Rest with Christ for eternity is in our future.

5. Proof of the love of God: 5-10

God's love for us has been gushed abroad in our heart by the Holy Spirit. This is not our love for God but His love for us. He did His best for us when He found us at our worst:

“weak” or powerless

“ungodly”

“sinners”

“enemies”

What did God do for us in this condition? He loved us and demonstrated it publicly at the cross. This is how much God has loved us in the past and has shed this love in our hearts when we trust Christ to be saved.

6. Preservation from future wrath: 9-10

Notice the “much more” in vs. 9-10. Not only have we been saved from divine wrath in the past (1:18; John 3:36; Rom.8:1),

But “much more shall we be saved from wrath through Christ.”

The wrath of the Lamb will be poured out on an unbelieving world (Revelation 6:12-17). Divine judgment And wrath will be handed out for eternity in Revelation 20:11-15.

Prairie fires were fought by back fire burning. There was no fire department and no access to water. People would begin a fire from their residence that would burn towards

the coming fire. By the time the wild fire reached them the ground was burned. They were safe to remain on the burned off ground. At the cross God poured out His wrath on our sins. Stand by the cross by faith and judgment will never touch you.

7. Personal relationship with God: 11

From being enemies of God, we are now reconciled. From being children of wrath, we are now children of grace.

Jesus Christ has removed all the barriers that kept us away from God. We are now not only forgiven but we have become children of the Father.

The God that once we hated in sin (5:10) we now call "Abba." This was the infant talk of Ancient Near East children.

8. Personal Identity forever changed: 12-21

God views all people as either "in Adam" or "in Christ." The contrast between Adam and Christ is explained.

William Newell in his commentary on Romans gives the following summary of the Adam and Christ contrast!

THE TWO MEN

Adam

Christ. (v.14)

THE TWO ACTS

Adam—one trespass: vs. 12,15, 17, 18, 19

Christ—one righteous act (on the cross) v. 18

THE TWO RESULTS

By Adam—condemnation, guilt, death: vs.15,16,18,19

By Christ—justification, life, kingship: vs. 17, 18, 19

THE TWO DIFFERENCES

Adam brought sin, condemnation, and death

Christ brought righteousness, and eternal life

THE TWO KINGS

Sin: reigning through death. V. 17

Grace: reigning through righteousness: v. 21

THE TWO ABUNDANCES

Of Grace

Of the Gift of Righteousness. V. 17

THE TWO CONTRASTED STATES

Condemned men, slaves of death, by Adam

Justified men, reigning in life, by Christ

God has forever changed your identity. You have been taken out of the family of “Adam” and placed into “Christ.” God the Father now looks on you through the righteousness and beauty of His Son. Scripture exhorts us to put off the “old man” which is the life we had when in “Adam” and to put on the “new man”—the “in Christ” life (Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3).

