

(21) "Peace with God": The First Benefit of Justification (5:1-4)

# Romans: The Outwork of the Righteousness of God

# Justification!—Line of Thought

- The Way of Works Is Impassable (1:18–3:20).
- There Is a Sure Way: Justification by Grace through Faith (3:21-26).
- The New Way Requires Exclusivity (3:27-31).
  - Exclusivity: Faith Alone, Not Faith Plus Works.
  - Universality: All Are Saved in the Same Way.
  - Connectivity: The Law Is the Pointer to the Faith.
- The New Way Was Illustrated by the Life of Abraham (Ch 4).
- The New Life Was Necessitated by the Law (Ch 5).
  - The Benefits of Justification (5:1-11).
    - Peace with God (5:1-4).
    - Love of God (5:5-8).
    - Saved through His Life (5:9-11).
  - The Pointer to Justification (5:12-21).

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Benefit of Justification

- 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith,
  - we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,
    - <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand;
    - and we exult in hope of the glory of God.
  - <sup>3</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations,
    - knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;
    - <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character;
    - and proven character, hope; (Rom 5:1-4 NAU)

# Limited Audience

- Chap 1-4 Are Written for All People:
  - Not Ashamed of the Gospel (1:1-17).
  - All Are Sinful and Condemned (1:18 –3:20).
  - There Is Only One Way by Faith (3:21–4:22).
- Chap 5-16 Are Written Only for Believers:
  - Chap 5 Is About Connectivity:
    - Forward to the Sanctification: Benefits of Justification.
    - Backward to the Law: Pointer to the Justification.
  - Chap 6-8: Sanctification of Believers.
  - Chap 9-11: How Christians Should Think about Israel.
  - Chap 12-16: Applications of Believers' Faith.

# Assurance of Justification

- “Therefore, having been justified by faith” (5:1a)
- The Greek was aorist (~past tense) passive participle of the verb *dikaio syne* (justify)
- Believers of Jesus Have Been Declared by God as Not Guilty in the Heavenly Court.
  - Passive Voice: It Was an Act of God, Not Men.
  - Past Tense: It Was Already Resolved.
  - “By Faith”:
    - The Means of Justification: Trusting in the Person and Work of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, Who Redeemed the Sins of Men.
    - The Timing of Justification: Baptism by the Holy Spirit, Declaration of the Not-Guilty Sentence.

# Peace with God

- “We have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom 5:1b).
- “Peace with God” Is Not the “Peace of God”.
  - “Peace of God” Is Subjectively Felt.
    - “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:7 NAU)
  - “**Peace with God**” Is Objectively Declared as a Cessation of War, and Intention of Well Being.

# Peace with God

- The Is an Active War between Nonbelieving Humans and God.
  - <sup>7</sup> because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Rom 8:7-8 NAU)
- Fallen Humans Are Children of the Household of God Who Followed the Rebellious Servant Lucifer-Satan.
  - <sup>12</sup> “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup> But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup> 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’” (Isa 14:12-14 NAU)

# Peace with God

- Peace with God Can Only Be Reached “through our Lord Jesus Christ”.
- It Was an Act of God to Seek for Peace, Not Because of Being Defeated, but Because of the Love for Mankind, Who Carry His Image.
- Jesus Christ Is Not Only God’s Emissary, He Also Is the Mediator and Guarantor of the Peace Treaty.
  - He Paid the Indemnity That Men Owed God: The Wage of Sin = Death.
  - Thus God Can Give Mercy without Violating His Justice.
  - The Receiver of the Peace Are Legally His Purchased Slaves.
  - He Intends to Make Them His Beloved Bride, Thus Co-Heirs of Kingdom of God to Come.



# Sure Standing

- “<sup>2</sup> through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand;” (Rom 5:2a)
- Greek: *prosagoge* = **obtained our introduction**
  - Either: “Introduction [into the Grace]”: Initiation.
  - Or “Access [to the Grace]”: Continuation.
- “**This Grace**”:
  - Not Emphasizing the Means: Undeserved Gift.
  - But Emphasizing the Result: The Effect of Having Received the Gift.
- “**We Stand**”: The Indentify of the Redeemed Are Initially Freed Slaves in Christ, the Result of the Peace with God, a Position with Safety from God’s Wrath.

# Hope of the Glory of God

- “and we exult in hope of the glory of God” (Rom 5:2b).
- “**Exult**” (Gk *kaukaomai*): Boast: Not of the Merit of Self, but of the Grace of God.
- “Hope” (Gk: *elpis*) Is Not a Weak Verb in English as a Good Wish, but a Strong Verb in Greek about Sure and Definite Faith about Something to Happen in the Future.

# Hope of the Glory of God

- “Glory” in Greek: *dokeo*
  - The Verb means “to Think”.
  - The Noun Means Opinion.
    - Correct Opinion = Orthodox.
    - Other Than Correct Opinion = Heterodox.
    - Contrary to Correct Opinion = Paradox.
  - Developed into: One Who Has a Good Reputation, thus Having Glory.
- “Glory” in Hebrew: *kaved* (heaviness).
  - In the Ancient Near East: Heavy People Are Wealthy and Important, Thus with Glory.

# Hope for the Glory of God

- “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” (1 John 1:5 NAU)”
  - God Is More Than Light; He Is the Creator of Light.
  - Light Is the Boundary between the Supernatural and the Nature. Thus When Supernatural Beings Appear in the Material World, They First Appear as Light.
- Jesus Christ as the Eternal Son of God Had Heavenly Glory, Which He Shelved in Incarnation, and Partially Revealed during the Transfiguration.
- Believers Will Have the Glorified Body as Jesus Does after the Resurrection.

# Good End of Suffering

- “<sup>3</sup> And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations,” (Rom 5:3a)
- Experiencing Suffering Is Not Necessarily Bad, as the Secularists Often Assume. They May Be:
  - Result of the Cosmic Curse.
  - Correction or Justice on Personal Sins.
  - Revelation of the Glory of God.
  - Training of Character.

# Good End of Suffering

- “Knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;” (Rom 5:3b-4 NAU)
- For Believers, Who Know the Big Picture, Having Faith in a Good God, and Peace Objectively with God and Subjectively in the Heart:
- Suffering Brings Perseverance, Proven Character, and Hope (Sure Faith about the Future Glorification Together with Christ).

# Lessons and Applications

- Believers of Jesus Christ Are Once for All Declared as Righteous/Justified/Not-guilty by God.
- They Have a Peace Treaty with God, Guaranteed by Christ, Who Paid the Indemnity.
- Believers Have Receive God's Grace: A Safe Standing before Him, Based on the Redemption of Christ, Free from God's Wrath, Adopted into the Family of God, Coheir of the Kingdom to Come with Christ.

# Lesson and Applications

- Believers Are Sure to Have a Glorified Body as Christ Does after the Resurrection.
- Believers Can Have This Hope as Assure Faith, Believe It as a Fact, Definitely to Come in the Future.
- Believers Hope Are Enhanced and Proven by the Fact That They Can Rejoice even during Suffering.
- Believers Know That God Allowed Suffering on His Children for Their Good (even the Sufferings Are Corrective for Sins).
- Believers Should Have Assurance of Salvation, and Joy under All Circumstances!