

Justification: Results in a Believer's Life

SERMON

Paul has been giving many explanations and teachings in the Book of Romans to define the position of safety which a Christian has received. He has received this safety when he believed in Jesus Christ's Atonement or Blood Sacrifice to buy forgiveness.

Now, Paul expounds or exposes the results of Justification as a Believer lives his life, not anymore as a sinner but as a justified saint.

R .5.1 Therefore. As is often said : “What is the *Therefore , there for ?*” “*Therefore*” refers to basically all of the Book of Romans, from Romans 1.17 *The Just shall live by faith.*” to Romans 4.23*It (righteousness) shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead,..Therefore.... defining justification by faith* and presenting a case against a non-Christian Jewish listener and against salvation by works under the Law. The glorious conclusion in *believing* Jesus Christ, Messiah, died for our sins means we are *justified by faith.* Deliverance from the burden of salvation by works, in particular, by keeping God's Law as given to Israel through Moses, is a heavy weight off anyone's shoulders. Also, the new positive effect in v.1 is *having peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,....* I really like J.B. Phillips' translation of Romans 5.1-2: *Since then it is by faith that we are justified, let us grasp the fact that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have confidently entered into this new relationship of grace, and here we take our stand, in happy certainty of the glorious things he has for us in the future.*

GRASP means: “to lay hold of”, “understand clearly”, “hold on tightly to” the truth of being Justified by FAITH. Also repeating the main theme from the Bible , “to hold on tightly from FAITH TO FAITH until we see JESUS.” { Pastor Bruce's Sermon / October 8, 2023 } – I preached that from the exposition of **Romans 1.17** “**also makes it clear that the power of salvation begins its work in a sinner for re-birth then continues in him as a saint, holy one. This power must continue throughout ones life on Earth. God's continuing work in a Born Again Christian is from faith to faith, and the Born Again Christian will also do work, especially in his soul or heart, from faith to faith. But Jesus with us always carries the heavier side of our cross!!!**”

TAKEAWAY #1

CONFIDENTLY – with **CONFIDENCE** in God's promises starting with *Justification by Faith.* God creates both humility and confidence at the same time because our confidence is not in ourselves but in

Jesus.

PEACE- absence of war or war just ended, calmness, tranquility. Sinners are God's Enemies in war against Him. (Romans 5.10). The sinner's war against God has ended as he believes in Jesus, His Atoning Blood Sacrifice that washed away his sins. *Justified by faith, we have peace with God.* (Romans 5.1/NASB). This is an overriding Peace. We, of course, didn't and still don't deserve it. But Jesus gave and keeps giving it! Jesus said in (John 14.27 / ISV) *I'm leaving you at peace. I'm giving you my own peace. I'm not giving it to you as the world gives. So don't let your hearts be troubled, and don't be afraid.* Jesus said this to His Apostles at His Last Supper with them on earth as He was to leave them from Death on His Cross. He promised to never leave us Christians today. The Bible says in (Hebrews 13.5 / ISV) *Your conduct must be free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for God himself has said, "I will never leave you; never will I forsake you."* **6** Hence we can confidently say, *"The Lord[a] is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"* [b]

The original Greek has a double negative. Unlike in English, this is for GREAT emphasis, not to reverse the meaning. Thus in Hebrews 13.5 b

*"I will **never** leave you; **never** will I forsake you.* Can be read as *I will never never never leave you nor forsake you.* Jesus is our personal Saviour. His promise applies to everyday life and physical needs. His promise is with us in our battles against our own sinful desires and Satan.

A note, especially to newly Born-Again Christians. Jesus is still with us through Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity. Before the Holy Spirit was given to Christians, Jesus promised Him to His Apostles in (John 14.26). *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.* Our Heavenly Helper is our connection to Jesus and the Father in Heaven. Jesus being with us forever through the Holy Spirit fulfills His promise. Jesus' body is now in Heaven, but our connection to His Presence is everywhere we Christians go on Earth. God's Presence here on Earth is in all ways the Presence of God's Holy Spirit.

At some point in a newly born-again Christian's life, you start to realize there is another power or spiritual being who is determined to spoil that glorious peace., opposing Holy Spirit inside us Believers. That is Satan, God's enemy and the enemy of all God's Children. This fact of Christian life will be addressed in more detail in Romans 8. **It is of the utmost importance that we fully realize the magnitude of the gift of Salvation by faith.** At the same time, the Bible tells things as they really are. **Ignorance regarding the Devil is not bliss.... but blisters!As his fiery darts burn your spiritual life with pain.**

When our War against God ended and peace was declared, the War against Satan began. As sinners, we were his prisoners. Prisoners behind bars can not fight!

There was a popular song from the 1960s in America, Iwimbuway (Mbube in Zulu...I am sure you all new that!). This song expresses what defines peace "in the village." Just imagine living in fragile grass huts,

with Lions nearby. The song's lyrics include, "So hush my darling the Lion Sleeps tonight." Satan's threat to our physical life is easily dismissed by the Word of God in (Hebrews 2.14 AMPC) *Since, therefore, [these His] children share in flesh and blood [in the physical nature of human beings], He [Himself] in a similar manner partook of the same [nature], that by [going through] death He might bring to nought {nothing regarding Death} and make of no effect him who had the power of death—that is, the devil.* Jesus' Death eliminated the devil's power to cause Death. Satan still has power as the Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2.2) *in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*** He no longer has power over Death. As Job said in the Bible (Job 1.21/ KJ21) *The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.*" . And, in (Psalm 116.15 NASB) *Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.* These verses in Holy Scripture imply that to the Older Testament Saints, Satan had no power over Death either. Since Jesus' conquered Death on His Cross, Satan has no power for death in non-Christians either. This is important as we pray for non-Christians in life threatening circumstances. The glorious fact for Christians is that Death is God taking him Home, or, his **Graduation into Heaven.**

Sometimes in a Christian's life there are periods of time when that Evil Lion is sleeping. But, as the Apostle Peter, who was concerned about the Christians' spiritual life, reminded Believers in (1 Peter 5.8 / ISV) *Be clear-minded and alert. Your opponent, the Devil, is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.* Clear-minded and alert means keeping Bible Verses in your head and Prayer in your heart. Bible verses are the Sword of the Spirit. This is a vital part of the Armor of God (Ephesian 6.10 - 18). We have God's Spirit and all the weapons for victory at hand or available. We are in the Father's Hands (John 10.29) *My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.* And, as I said above, Jesus Christ is inside us by Holy Spirit. Spiritually we don't have to fear a Lion like living in a grass hut. However, If we often neglect our needs: Bible, Prayer, Christian Fellowship; we are moving into a spiritual grass hut, if you please.

Our God is a bulwark , a fortress. But, the Bible tells us **clearly** that it is our job to learn to fight. We are no longer helpless prisoners of Satan but Soldiers for Christ Jesus.

v.2 *through whom we also have have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand;* Through the Lord Jesus Christ we have obtained our introduction to our life in Christ. The word *introduction* means "This is just the **Beginning.**" Before we look at our own weaknesses and we get nervous as we start this new life, which is the beginning of *spiritual Life*, really note it is *into this grace in which we stand.* *God's Grace is His undeserved favor .* May I also make note: That in our old life we really were walking dead persons. This new life is LIFE, as Jesus is LIFE. (John 11.25) *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the **life**; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies,"*

v.2b , *and here we take our stand.* As Christians and Soldiers in Jesus's Army on the Earth, we must not lack

courage to stand up for our Lord Jesus , or what He taught. Often, taking a stand against professing Christians is where we will find ourselves. I say professing because only God knows if they really **confess Christ in their hearts, even though they say , or profess, they are Christians.**

We need not search back as far as Christ confronting the religious Pharisees, or Paul the Legalistic Jews for a true example in History. For in AD1500 a Roman Catholic Monk, Martin Luther, was struck in his heart by his continuing failure against his sins as he contemplated Christ in the monastery. Then, the Holy Spirit opened his heart to one of the verses in Romans, likely 5.1. He became a Born-Again Christian. His chains to good works fell off. But his preaching and writings had his life threatened by the Roman Catholic Pope . He was taken to trial with a sentence of excommunication and maybe death , if he did not recant **Salvation by Faith alone** as the Pope had demanded. He declared at his trial from Romans 5.2 **HERE I STAND!!!**

Thus the true Church which is only by Faith in Christ , survived by being separated and sanctified away from Salvation from religious rituals and non-Biblical practices. All Christians should know the Bible well enough to not be swept away by errors or heresies (Un-Biblical religious proclamations).

v.2b *and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God.* (NASB) and ***we take our stand in happy certainty of the glorious things He has for us in the future.*** (JBP).

Celebrating Jesus is the main theme of a Christian's life. I like how Phillips used words to prevent the worldly understanding of “hope.” The non-Christian thought is more of “wishing” or “desiring” something in the future. The Biblical Word (elpis/Greek) for hope means a future event as sure as God Himself. I agree with Mounce's summary:

“This predominant understanding of hope is based on the OT, where hope is essentially synonymous with “trust”: to hope in the Lord is to trust in the Lord (Rom 15:13). When Paul says in Rom 5:2 that Christians “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God,” he obviously does not intend for hope to mean merely “wish.” Only a confident expectation produces joy; wishing for something one is not sure to receive produces anxiety rather than joy. As Paul goes on to write, Christian hope is a hope that will never disappoint us (Rom 5:5).” (Mounce)

Only Jesus knows the Father's will for the future events in our lives. Jesus promised Eternal Life and Life in Abundance. Jesus said in (John 10.10) **10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came so that they would have life, and [b]have it abundantly.**

Romans 5.2b *in happy certainty of the glorious things He has for us in the future.* (JBP) We naturally assume this means everything in our lives will be happy and cheerful. But, just reading the Bible for a short time, we realize that God defines *happy* and Jesus' Words *life...abundantly* by drawing nearer to Jesus, not an easy life to Glory in Heaven.

R.v.3 Clarifies God's perspective over ours. Sometimes, we are a little too natural, and not spiritual enough. Glorious things in the future means the **Already** experiences with God's glorious Presence on Earth, and the **Not Yet** of His Glory in Heaven where we will have no sin in us and no devil to hinder us. Holy Spirit has breathed this **Already and Not Yet** into these verses. *Celebrating in our tribulations* requires

confidence that Jesus is with us, by the Holy Spirit, and that someday we will be with Him in Heaven. Paul then lists what might be called the “Road to Maturity” for Christians. **Reading v. 3-5 (NASB)** we find: **TRIBULATIONS brings about PERSEVERANCE, PERSEVERANCE brings about PROVEN CHARACTER, PROVEN CHARACTER brings about HOPE, HOPE brings about...NOT BEING DISAPPOINTED of how God has brought us through challenges here on Earth and especially as we enter Glory with Jesus in Heaven.** You may ask How? v.5 tells us *because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* Holy Spirit empowers us to celebrate Jesus even in tribulations (Romans 5.2b), bringing along to maturity. Thus *already* Glory of God is given all Christians, and yet meant to be personal to each of us. It seems the miracle of loving others, especially those people who seem to be your enemies, is one of glorious results of God's Glory here and now. But whatever situations that God decides to become tribulations in our lives, this WORD of God tells us to expect experiencing Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity with some measure of Glory before Heaven. As JB Phillips words it in (Romans 5.5) *Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.*

After teaching the Roman Christians to expect Experiential Christianity as normal for Believers, he returns to God's love for us before we accepted His Son.

Read v. 6-8 (NASB)...God demonstrated or revealed His love (agape/Greek) for us before we knew or accepted Christ. As God is above time, this applies to AD 2,000 as much as AD 55 when Paul penned this letter to Rome. God saw us all, dead in our sin, and *helpless* to break out of our **prison, our addiction to sin.** But despite that, God sent His Son to die for us *at the right time.* God is above “time” but is sovereign over all that occurs in “time.” We might think of how God allowed Rome to conquer the world, controlled by the Greeks, to set up **Jesus' death on a Tree by crucifixion** (Galations 3.13 & Deuteronomy 21.23). Galations 3.13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written (Deut. 21.23): “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A [e]TREE”*—

Crucifixion was the Romans cruel strategy to discourage rebellions. Also, that God allowed Alexander the Great, a Greek General, to conquer the civilized world before the Romans did. God knew His Son's Gospel deserved the most articulate language ever spoken among men for the Greek New Testament. The peoples conquered by Alexander kept Greek as the language of business after being conquered by Rome. But I really think of *the right time*, being the right time for me. Holy Spirit is wise and uncanny in opening the heart of a sinner to realize the Truth of Jesus dying for their sins, at the precise right moment that they were prepared to believe it.

R.v.7 God knew what we were, depraved sinners as Paul strung Scriptures in (Romans 3.10-18) beginning the list of Mankind's depravity with (Romans 3.10) *None is righteous, no not one.* The wording “righteous” or “good man” in v.6 is not a man without sin. Paul is referring to person whose life shows the character and quality that someone might sacrifice their own life to save in an act of bravery. But God knows how depraved we men *really are.*

R.v.8 This makes it clear again that it was no merit in ourselves that sent Jesus to His crucifixion for us as *we were yet sinners*. **Were-**The past tense of the verb *to be* in English followed by the adjective, yet, and the adjective *ēimi harmartolos* /Greek, “still sinners”, clearly defines that we are no more Sinners. This is not because we sin no more, but because of our position before God in Christ.

TAKE AWAY #2 Christians may admit to non-Christians that they still sin. But, when Christians call themselves “sinners” where non-Christians can hear them, it greatly misrepresents the Truth of being Born-Again. It implies that Jesus' death for me didn't change me at all. It also encourages non-Christians to continue in sin! “You are just like me” they will think. A sinner is not someone who sins. Here the Bible defines a “sinner” as an “enemy” of God. (see v.10 below) Christians should not go around calling themselves “enemies “of God.

It is a totally different communication when we kneel before God in prayer, calling ourselves “ sinners.” We are simply calling on Him as we admit our old nature is too alive for our good and His good pleasure. We are still in our position of being justified by faith, no longer sinners but *Holy Ones by Faith*.

My last TAKEAWAY flows into, or is a segue, **to v.9 Reading...** *Justified by Jesus blood* means not receiving the wrath of God that we deserve because of our sins, either before, or, after our Christian rebirth.

.v. 10 *For if when we were enemies {of God } we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son...* Again, the Bible has obviously redefined the word “sinner” in God's sight to mean “**Enemy of God.**” We Christians have to accept what God has redefined this word “sinner” to mean or be the same as, or a synonym for, “enemy of God.” As Paul instructed his student Timothy in (2 Timothy 3.16 /MOUNCE)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correcting, for training · in righteousness, If we don't accept this redefinition of the word “sinner”we are not making the Holy Bible our final authority in life. We will be trapped by the world's definitions in our culture and society to weaken the power of God's Word, thus of our influence for Jesus.

Reconcile means to restore friendly relations between men. In this case, between God and men by the Blood of Jesus.

v.10b *..much more , having been reconciled , we shall be saved His life.*

“Saved” here includes being saved from God's Judgment but it also points to remember that Jesus is still alive! He is active on planet Earth by Holy Spirit. Jesus is working out our lives to bring pleasure to His Father, God. Salvation is multi-faceted and as we look at the complex world around us, we should be glad...

TAKEAWAY #3

Deciding and prayerfully submitting to God's plan in our tests to trials, we develop a mature character, and a character of this sort produces a steady hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. Already we have some experience of the love of God flooding through our hearts by the Holy Spirit given to us.

Maturing Christians move steadily along the path of Romans 5.3-5 and start to learn that “trusting” is “believing.”

v.11 *And not only this, but we celebrate in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.* Paul repeats the words “***much more***” in v.9 regarding “*saved from wrath*” and

“***much more***” in v. 10 *saved by His { Jesus' } Life.* He is really putting an Exclamation Point (!) on a Christians life going forward: “in happy certainty of the glorious things he has for us in the future. (v. 5.2 / JBP). **Celebration is the only reasonable response to what Christians were saved from (God's wrath) and saved to (a Living Risen Saviour on our side.)**

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Before my pastoral prayer , the Worship Team will sing *And Can It Be.* Feel free to sing along as OIC, you are a Great Choir on Earth in in Heaven.
.....Let Us Pray....

REFERENCES

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