

XXVIII. Romans in Biblical Perspective  
*The Gospel of God*  
“Five Gospel Blessings of Justification by Faith Alone – Part 3”  
Romans 5:1–11  
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This is the Word of God that is infallible, inerrant and sufficient for all the matters of life in Christ. Romans 5:1–5 says [1] *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

The grass withers, the flower fades, the Word of our God abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

When the Holy Spirit inspires the Apostles and Prophets to give us the Word of God, He doesn't divorce them from their personalities, their inclinations and their training for He uses it as they write. In Romans Paul's training under Gamaliel can be seen a number of ways but one of the ways it is seen is how Paul is relentlessly linear, logical and connects the dots. As I was preparing for this study, I was thinking about this because when I was growing up my family always travelled at night due to the fact that there were six of us – my parents, me and my three sisters. We would typically just go to sleep so my mother's favorite game was connect-the-dots so she would buy that and my sisters and I would work on those until we got sleepy and went to sleep.

When I read the Apostle Paul, I shutter to think of how many times he would have whipped us at connect-the-dots because that is what he does so well. He does this in Romans 5:1 when he starts out using the word 'therefore' and he uses this word constantly. This is one of his ways of connecting the dots. When 'therefore' is used we ask what it is there for and it tells us that what we're about to read is directly tied to, informed by and based on what we just read. What was just given to us is now foundational to what is about to be given. So, what you are about to read is meaningless without that context that came before. I think Paul uses the word 'therefore' at least a hundred times in the book of Romans alone. Paul is always connecting the dots.

The 'therefore' has to do with what was said in Romans 4:23–25 which was [23] *But the words "it was counted to him (Abraham)" were not written for his sake alone, [24] but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, [25] who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.* This should not shock you.

For instance, when we come to the Lord's Supper where is God bringing our focus? The bread represents the body of Christ given for us at the cross. The cup represents the blood of Christ shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Then we are told to keep celebrating the Lord's Supper until He comes again. He can't come again from heaven if He is still in the grave which tells us that He has risen – the atoning death of Christ. He died for the sins of His people and the triumphant resurrection of Christ for our justification. He wiped our sin record out at the cross

and from His ascended glory He gives us His righteousness. Since Jesus has done that for us, what can we now say? Therefore, we are justified and Romans 5:1 says *[1] Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul not only connects us to the atoning death and resurrection of Christ with ‘therefore’ to teach us of our justification but he goes even further. What begins to strike you about Romans 5? This is a thread, it’s linear where each builds upon the other. Romans 5:1–5 says *Romans 5:1–5 says [1] **Therefore**, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through Him we have **also** obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, **and** we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] **Not only that**, but we rejoice in our sufferings, **knowing** that suffering produces endurance, [4] **and** endurance produces character, **and** character produces hope, [5] **and** hope does not put us to shame, **because** God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Why do I have peace with God? It is because I have been justified by faith. Why am I justified by faith? It is because Jesus died for my sin and He is risen for my justification. The bold words are where Paul is connecting us to something. In this study we will be looking at legacy number three which is ‘we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.’ With all these connectors I can see why Paul has a hard time using periods, because everything just keeps connecting to the previous thing relentlessly and theological to ground zero for our salvation – the cross and the tomb. Because of Paul doing this we begin to get some amazing statements and I want to give you four of these amazing statements.

Amazing truth number one is because of the atoning death and resurrection of Christ there is an unexpected verdict – it is that we are justified. Because we are justified through faith in Christ we have peace with God. Why would I say that is an unexpected verdict? Back in Romans 1 Paul gives us two salient features of the Gospel – the power of God and the righteousness of God – and for the next three chapters Paul tells us as sinners we are indicted as he walks us before the bar of God’s justice – we’re under sin, under God’s wrath – so we’re not only indicted but the indictment is the judgment of God – judged by the holiness of God. Then Paul sums it up in Romans 3:23 which says *[23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* So, the verdict I would expect to hear after that is – condemned, but I don’t hear that.

Paul goes to Romans 4 to tell us that there is no way but that God has made a way through His Son, where Romans 4 becomes this treasure chest where the Reformers used it to rescue the Gospel from this clouded superstition and corruption in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone so we boast only in the Lord. Then Paul brings us to ground zero as he tells us that He was delivered up for our transgressions and raised for our justification. Those who have come to salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone now here the verdict ‘justified’ which is the word for innocent. Condemnation means its opposite – guilty. I, who have everything wrong with me, am now right with God because God’s Son has commandeered the power of God and the righteousness of God to remove our sins and give us His righteousness. We expect to hear ‘guilty – condemned’ but what is provided is salvation through Christ. There are no other options. When we all get to that Judgment Seat to be justified you have to be in Christ, for in Christ there is the verdict – innocent. There is the glorious unexpected verdict that is given.

Amazing truth number two is that you get a unique declaration/communication of that verdict. What is unique about it? One of the great television programs of all time is Perry Mason. I would recommend you watch it for it is highly educational – old one that came out earlier (TV series from 1957 to 1966), not the one that came out in 2020. If Perry Mason hasn’t

solved it before the courtroom case is over, the case will be heard, the jury will return and they are going to give a verdict. The judge will announce the verdict after the trial, after all the evidence is in. According to Romans 1 through 3 we ought to hear guilty but if in Christ we'll hear innocent, but we don't have to wait till after the trial to hear the verdict because He has already given it to you. The justification/innocent verdict is not based on you or your performance but His. Therefore because of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, and you have put your trust in Christ alone, you are not just forgiven but you're innocent.

Hebrews 9:27–28 says [27] *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, [28] so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.* We will all face the Judgment Seat but for those in Christ, you already know your verdict before you get there, because of Jesus – His atoning death and resurrection.

Amazing truth number three is you have a unique and glorious promise. That is, it is an irreversible verdict – it can't be reversed. What if you make a profession of faith, get baptized and then walk away in apostasy, will the verdict not be reversed? No, because you never had an innocent verdict to begin with. You can make a profession of faith and not have a possession of faith and so what happened was that you eventually showed there was no possession of faith in Christ and Christ in you. Our lives do not secure our justification, enhance our justification, or even lose our justification. Our justification is in Christ. Our lives can evidence our justification and it will, not that you ever become sinless but that your heart desire is to sin less because you love Him and desire to keep His commandments. We don't live the Christian life to be saved, we live it for our Savior.

One might be thinking that if it's irreversible that they will get saved and then sin because they can't lose their salvation but no, for if that is their choice in life that tells you that they never really were saved. This is what John means when he says in I John 2:19, [19] *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.* We see this when Peter said to Simon the Magician in Acts 8:23, [23] *“For I see that you (Simon) are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”* It is not the profession of faith but the evidence of the possession of faith, but the evidence does not justify you, for the evidence affirms your faith. Christ alone justifies you. I pray weekly that your Christian life is unbounding in joy and effectiveness, multiple times for these precious people I have the opportunity to serve as a pastor. I will never tell you that your justification is dependent upon your obedience for justification is at the cross of Christ when He took away your sins and the empty tomb where He gave the triumph of your justification.

I don't know whether your faith is the size of a mustard seed or whether you just believed this past week, but no matter what happens in your faltering or in your growth in grace, you will never be more justified than you are right now from the cross of Christ and His resurrection. Now you will grow in intimacy with the Lord. You will grow in your witness for the Lord and in the fullness of the Lord, but you will never be more right than you are right now with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is irreversible if one is in Christ, by a saving faith that was the product of God's grace.

Ephesians 2:8–10 says [8] *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, [9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* For your justification to be reversible

Christ's death would have to be declared null and void. Romans 8:33–34 says [33] *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* [34] *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* Because He died for my sins and was raised, I am justified for it was rooted in Him.

I want to encourage those who are young in Christ. There are no good saved people. Romans 3:12 says [12] *All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.* There are saved sinners. Heaven will not be populated by good people. It will be populated by sinners who are saved. If Christ is your Savior you are His and He is yours and His atoning death has erased all the sins of all of His people for all of eternity and His resurrection shouts you are accepted. Jesus is your Hope and that brings us to the fourth amazing truth.

Amazing truth number four is the transformational blessings of our justification from the cross and resurrection of Christ. We have peace with God and because of that we have the peace of God. The reason this peace is so important is because up until we were converted, we were at enmity with God. We have peace like a river flowing because the One who died for us is the Prince of peace. Jesus says to His Apostles only hours before He is going to go to the cross in John 14:27, [27] *Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.* There is your legacy – peace with God.

Secondly, you have access to God. This is so important because until we were converted, we had no access or even want it. We were under sins. Did a loved one die this week and your heart is heavy? You have access to God. Did you falter or return to a besetting sin? You have access to God to confess your sins. Jesus' death sprinkled the way clean. Plus, you have standing with God. You are beyond even the innocent angels. The innocent angels in the face of God can't even land. They have wings to stay in the air, wings to cover their face and wings to cover their feet. You are beyond the angels because you have standing with God. You don't even take off your shoes because now you have Gospel shoes – the blood and righteousness of Christ brings you before God, for when He sees you He sees the righteousness of His Son. We are joint heirs.

Now I want to look at a third Gospel transformational blessing. You get irreversible blessings from Christ and every one of these five blessings are transformational. What did God do with the first sin in the Garden? God drove them out of the Garden and He put an angel at the gate with a sword so they couldn't get back in – no access, no standing. Then at Mount Sinai, the holy of holies and the temple it was only through a mediator was there access. Now the Mediator has come and from the cross the earthquake ripped the curtain in two and now we have access into the holy of holies. More than that, we want access and standing before God.

Do you sense and know that God is your peace? Do you love your access to Him? For instance, when Lord's Day worship of the gathered assembly of His people come together to give Him praise, is that now your desire or is it, maybe if it works out? When challenges come are you so grateful that even without going to your knees you can go to the holy of holies to call upon God for comfort, wisdom, insight, strength, power and forgiveness? All of these blessings are blessings because He has transformed what we didn't want. We used to think we were god. We used to now want access to God. If I have those irreversible standings before God then I have transformational blessings that evidence it before the world. They don't create my justification but they do evidence it.

Now we get to a third transformational blessing. Romans 5:1–2 says [1] *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.* What is in bold is our third Gospel blessing. Romans 3:23 says, [23] *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.* Before our conversion we could care less about God’s glory. After our conversion it is our joy. Philippians 1:20 says [20] *as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.* Christ is the hope of our glory.

There are two things in this Romans text that are really challenging. The problem is how the ESV translated this word rejoice because in the Greek it’s not the normal word used for rejoice that is translated here and we’ll see it three more times in our coming studies on this. The word used here in the Greek for rejoice is the same Greek word used for boast in Romans 3:27 that says [27] *Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded.* So why didn’t they use the word boast in Romans 5:2? I began to do some work on it so I am going to make a suggestion and I don’t think the ESV is going to take my suggestion. I think I know why they chose the word rejoice here but I think the word boast would be better. We boast in the hope of God’s glory or we exalt in the hope of God’s glory. Or take the glory and turn it into a verb – we glory in the hope of His glory. There is our joy.

This is transformational because all of us, even as Christians, our bent to take besetting sins and glory in those for I know Gospel ministers who identify with besetting sins as the markers of their life or we take the very good things that God has given to us to use for His glory and begin to put glory in those instead of His glory. How can we be named by what is not supposed to be named among us? Perhaps we glory in a college football team. I love sports. I love my family, my children, my grandchildren and you all here in our congregation. I’m overwhelmed at the opportunity to be a preacher of the Gospel and a pastor, but I must not glory in my family, my children, my job, my ministry. I glory in the hope of God’s glory.

That word hope isn’t the word for wished for. This means the blessed Hope, the anchor of life. If you can get that your irreversible justification is in Christ and these transformational blessings are given to you in Christ, then when you go through this life battling the sin within in and the sin on the outside, suffering etc., you will have ballast in your soul, weightiness. In fact, that’s what the word glory means – weightiness. There is the weightiness that we glory in the hope of glory and that is Christ. Now we are free to enjoy all the other things because we don’t put them in the place of Christ as our glory. We can use them for His glory and when we use them for His glory that’s when we really delight in those things (family, job, sports, school, business) for Him because we see it being used for Christ. Now we glory in the hope of glory that if Christ is lifted up He will draw all men to Himself.

Here is the takeaway. It is simply the preeminence of Christ. Romans 4:24b–25, 5: says [24b] *It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, [25] who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

[5:1] *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. [2] Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been*

*given to us.* Who gave the Spirit to us? It was Jesus, who is the Name above all names, the preeminence of Christ – the assured justification of sinners and all of the transformational legacy blessings are unmistakably secured and assured in Christ alone. I have great news for you. As great is that is here, the best is yet to come.

As I was working through this – this hope of glory – I thought of a hymn *Rejoice the Lord is King* for the last verse of that hymn comes from this passage in Romans 5:2. It says;

*Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come  
And take His servants up To their eternal home.*

I don't wait for the Judge to give me the verdict at the Judgment. The Judge has already come to bear my judgment and has given it the verdict. Rejoice in the hope of glory! This world is divided. It's polarized and looks to sociology, politics and everything it can look to for its hope and we must by God's grace demonstrate our confidence and our glory in the Hope of glory and that is Christ alone – the preeminence of Christ.

I'm saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. I'm justified by my justification is never alone. My justification brings me peace with God, access to God, standing with God and brings me glory in the Hope of glory and that's Christ.

When I was in the Alliance Youth Fellowship I was so thankful for those youth volunteers because we didn't have enough money to have a youth pastor. These volunteers were putting forth dividends even though it didn't seem like it. When they got me to sing even though I didn't want to sing, I sang songs that still come back to me all the time. For instance, there is one called *Oh That will be Glory* and it says;

*Oh, that will be glory for me,  
Glory for me, glory for me,  
When by His grace I shall look on His face,  
That will be glory, be glory for me.*

One day we will look on His face with unveiled faces. There is the Hope of glory that we have in Christ that we will rise. The best is yet to come. Here we have glory after glory after glory as God brings you on pilgrim's progress but when you get to the celestial city and see Him, everything else pales into insignificance. Oh, won't that be glory when we see Him face to face, but remember there was not only one verdict that has already been issued, He has also warned you of the other verdict – depart from Me into the lake of fire. What verdict you hear on that Day is directly related to what you do on this day.

Will you come to Christ this day and put your trust in Him alone? In Christ alone we are redeemed now and forevermore. As glorious as it is, even in the midst of suffering, it's going to get better and better, glory and glory and then comes this unbelievable moment when you shall see Him.

There was an illustration that came to me as a preacher than I have never forgotten. I was at Christ Covenant and this lady from Wycliff came to me about something that is now published that had to do with this older lady in her church who went to her young pastor. When people get older they kind of lose social graces because it really doesn't matter anymore so they just kind of say what they want to say at those moments. She went to her young pastor having a terminal prognosis and told him she wanted him to do her funeral and then proceeded to tell him how to

do it. She didn't give him a choice of whether or not he wanted to. She said 'This is how I want you to do mine. You will put the casket down front and leave it open the entire service, then when the service is over march everyone down front to pass by my casket so they can see inside. I want a Bible in my left hand and a fork in my right hand.' He said, 'What?' She said 'Then go down and take the Bible out of my left hand and hold it up and preach the Gospel to them. Tell them the Word of God was the foundation of my life and through that Word of God I came to know the God of the Word. Tell them He has never disappointed me and that they need to know the Word of God so they may know Jesus.' He said 'What about the fork?' She said 'Don't you love Christian hospitality? People do their best for you and put a great meal out. After you finish eating it the hostess is picking up the dishes and don't you just love that moment when they pick up your dish and say 'save your fork' for then you know as good as it's been the best is yet to come. You tell them that's where I am now.' Glory, on the dust of death, glory in Christ the hope of glory and we shall see Him. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. I pray that each person reading this today has come to this Savior and will not leave with any other glory on the horizon. I pray that because I'd like for them to enjoy the things that You have blessed them with instead of the emptiness of putting them in the place of Lord but I also pray this for they will never do it until they come to Jesus and gain His unexpected verdict because of His death and resurrection – irrevocably justified with transformational blessings and the best is yet to come. If you haven't come to Jesus please call us at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200 for we'd love to pray and talk with you about this. Come to Christ who came for you and at the cross did the work, from an empty is ascended and says 'Come to Me.' The preeminence of our Savior, for through Him we have life evermore, in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Power Point

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

LIFE TAKEAWAY

*The Preeminence of Christ*

*The assured Justification of Sinners and all of the Legacy blessings are unmistakably secured and assured in Christ alone.*

*With the best to come – the Hope of Glory*