



## Scotts Hill Baptist Church

ROMANS • THE BENEFITS OF BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH • ROMANS 5:1-11 • 10/29/2023

### MAIN POINT

From the middle of chapter one all the way to the end of chapter four, Paul has been acting like a lawyer who has been arguing his case. Beginning in chapter five, however, Paul shifts from argumentation to a tone of adoration. The overall tone of chapter 5:1-11 is celebratory, triumphant and jubilant..

*"In the whole Bible there is hardly another chapter which can equal this triumphant text."*

- **Martin Luther**

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What is the most intense fight, physical or non-physical, that you have ever been in with a friend or family member?**

**How did you reconcile your relationship with that person?**

We all get into confrontations and fights that lead to a need for reconciliation, and that reconciliation always costs something. In Romans 5, Paul pointed out that spiritual reconciliation involves a change and an exchange that redeems a person back to God at great cost. From this reconciliatory work we receive the benefits of belief in Christ. Through Faith in Jesus, the enemies of God can live at peace and in security with Him in an eternal relationship built on His grace.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 5:1-5.

**How is Romans 4:23-25 tied to 5:1-11?**

Paul began this section of his letter by focusing on the present benefits of peace, hope, and love from God. God doesn't save us by grace only to make us try to live for Him in our own power. Sustaining grace is given to help us stand today, tomorrow, and on that future day when we will stand before His throne. In other words, we don't have to be a superhero to establish a relationship with Him, and we don't have to be a superhero to enjoy and grow in our relationship with Him.

**What does it mean to have "peace with God"? How is this different from "peace of God"?**

**How is this peace different from the way modern day people talk about peace?**

**Do you think the kind of peace that Paul describes here is subjective ("I really feel at peace with God") or objective ("Regardless of how I feel, I know I am at peace with God")? What's the difference?**

**How does the assurance of this peaceful standing with God affect everyday life?**

Peace with God is one of the benefits of salvation. This result naturally derives from the fact we previously were subject to the wrath of God. The removal of wrath is, in fact, peace. God made this peace with us through the death of His Son, Jesus, and we received this peace with Him through faith.

**What two things did Paul say we can rejoice in because of God's grace?**

**Why is it important for believers to meditate on future glory?**

**Which of Paul's stated reasons for rejoicing is a little tougher for you to swallow? Why?**

It's likely easier to rejoice in the prospect of heaven than it is in the sufferings we experience in the meantime. Nevertheless, we must also rejoice in our sufferings, for they are the very means by which God shapes into people who reflect His glory that we so eagerly wait for.

**Based on verses 3-4, how should we view our afflictions in this life?**

**God has a priority, purpose, and pattern for our suffering. What is it that suffering should produce?**

**What incident in your life can you look back on and see the truth of verses 3-5? How can a believer's Christlike endurance of suffering offer a testimony of hope to others?**

**Out of the areas of suffering, perseverance, character, and hope, where is God working in your life right now? How is He working?**

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 5:5-8.

**Based on verses 5-8, explain how we can know the depths of God's love for us.**

**Is there someone you would die for? If so, who and why?**

**For what people or purposes can you imagine someone giving their life for? How was Christ's death different?**

Paul continued by demonstrating how great God's grace is. God redeemed us when we were at our worst. We were utterly helpless to earn our righteousness. He showed His unmatched love for us in Christ's death. Jesus was our superhero when we couldn't be. Paul described the timing of Christ's death as "while we were still weak" and "at the right time" (v.6). Christ did not die for us when we were worthy of being saved: He died when we were wicked. Paul focused on the greatness of grace by pointing to the fact that it is illogical for someone to die for another person, especially an unrighteous person.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 5:9-11.

**Why did we need to be reconciled to God? What separated us from Him?**

**Explain why the believer has assurance of salvation based upon verses 9-10.**

**What does it mean to 'rejoice in God'? What does rejoicing in God look like?**

**In light of these truths, how would you explain to a non-believer who asks you the question, "Why do Christians talk so much about Jesus dying on a cross? How could the death of a man 2000 years ago save me today"?**

In light of the great work that Jesus did, Christians are called to rejoice in God and praise Him for the grace they received. Paul emphasized that Christ's sacrifice was the

demonstration of nothing less than divine love for sinners. God's plan of redemption was a demonstration of grace through and through.

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**From this passage, what are the benefits that come to a Christian? Which one do you need the most right now?**

**How has this passage helped you more fully appreciate the benefits that are yours because of God's grace? What are some ways we can celebrate these benefits?**

**What can you do this week to keep the reality of your reconciliation present in your thoughts? How might your week look differently if you do?**

**What do you think would happen in our community if our group reacted to the truth we've looked at today without reservation? What is the first step toward reacting that way?**

**How can our group hold each other accountable to both focus on the gospel and entrust it to someone else this week?**

## PRAYER

Praise God for His reconciling work through Christ that brought you to Him at the right time when you were hostile and helpless. Pray that the people in your group would understand their need for a Savior and trust fully in Christ because of the price He paid for them.

## COMMENTARY

| ROMANS 5:1-11

5:1. When Paul used the term therefore, he was summarizing in a word the totality of his previous arguments made in 1:18–4:25. The only reasonable conclusion to make (and what God had revealed to Paul) was that believers are declared righteous by faith. Righteousness cannot be earned by any amount or duration of good works; it is received

only as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ. For Paul, being declared right with God by faith opens a floodgate of divine grace in believers' lives.

First of all is the gift of peace with God. Peace through Christ brings an end to the divine wrath we faced because of our sins. Apart from this peace we would have no recourse and no hope standing before God in the judgment. Second, peace through Christ refers to the effective restoration of a loving relationship with our Creator. Our sinfulness broke that relationship. With the removal of sin's curse through Christ's atoning sacrifice, believers are reunited in purpose, favor, and fellowship with our God. Third, peace through Christ enables a new relationship among believers. Our alienation from God because of our sins also alienated us from one another. In Christ, all barriers to unity and fellowship are effectively removed (see Eph. 2:14; Col. 3:12-14). Fourth, peace through Christ empowers believers to become agents of genuine peace in a strife-filled world (see Matt. 5:9; Heb. 12:14; Jas. 3:18).

5:2. In addition to receiving peace with God through Christ, believers gain genuine hope that can withstand even the darkest times of trouble and affliction. God's grace is not just a one-time experience that comes and goes at conversion. Rather, in Christ we have obtained access into this grace in which we stand.

Paul wrote the Greek verb rendered we stand in a tense that communicates a completed (that is, perfected) action, the results of which continue in full force. Thus Paul declared that believers receive a complete supply of God's grace at conversion, yet its benefits keep on working in full force throughout our lives and in whatever situations we find ourselves. In particular, God's grace continually helps us stand strong in faith when we face life's trials (see 2 Cor. 12:8-9). Moreover, God's grace is sufficient to help us stand without fear before our Lord when He returns to claim His people (see 1 Pet. 1:13). God's continuing grace thus gives us cause to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

5:3-4. Christian joy runs deep and endures because its source is the ever-flowing stream of God's grace. This is why Paul could state that we as believers also rejoice in our afflictions. Paul's statement doesn't imply that we somehow enjoy suffering. Rather, it means that we have confidence God will use even our afflictions to bring about His good purposes in our lives. For this confidence we need look no further than the example of our Lord Jesus. He willingly bore the most horrendous pain and suffering with a view that His death and resurrection would open the way to our salvation (see Heb. 2:10; 12:2). Proven character follows naturally from the believer who has remained faithful through

trials. Enduring trials causes us to grow in faith, and such growth is a testimony of faith's authenticity.

5:5. Christian hope that emerges from the nourishing flow of God's grace in our lives will not disappoint us. It goes without saying that many a person's self-generated hope has been dashed by the brutal realities of life. Hope in God, however, is hope that endures forever. We can trust that God will fulfill His promises to the end. A Christian also can live with enduring hope because of the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

5:6. In 5:6-11, the apostle developed this theme further with stirring language and comparisons. In particular, he described the vast gulf between divine love and human love. Paul set the stage for illustrating the radical difference of God's love by first stating it as a basic fact of the gospel.

First, God loved us when we were helpless. This means that apart from Christ we were completely unable to make any positive move toward God. Second, Christ died for us when we were ungodly. We could claim no moral goodness so as to make the case that we might be worthy of His death. Third, Christ gave His life for us at the right time. The Scriptures teach us that God had salvation by the cross and resurrection in mind even before the foundation of the world (see Eph. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:18-20).

5:7-8. Paul could imagine a rare scenario in which someone might be willing to die on behalf of a just person or a good person. However, the greatest imaginable case of human love cannot begin to compare to divine love in which while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

5:9-10. God showed His love by saving sinners when we were at our worst, helpless and ungodly. Since this amazing display of divine love is true, how much more can we trust the promise that we will be saved through Him from wrath. That is, we as believers have nothing to fear about the end-time judgment because we no longer are under God's wrath. Our sin-debt has been paid in full by a loving God who gave His only Son to die in our place. The justified not only escape God's wrath in the judgment but also are saved to experience the fullness of life as God intends. Here Paul had in mind not only a superior quality of life—life in Christ—but also longevity of life—that is, eternal life.

5:11. Paul captured the totality of the believers' benefit as having been obtained on the basis of reconciliation through Jesus Christ. From one point of view, Christ's sacrifice was an atonement that averted God's wrath from those who deserved His judgment because

of their sins. In this section, however, Paul emphasized that Christ's sacrifice was the demonstration of nothing less than divine love for sinners. Paul described earlier.