

The Benefits of Justification (5:1-11)

- Paul enumerates the benefits which accrue to those whose faith has been counted for righteousness. Justification has many precious present benefits.

1. Peace with God (5:1-2)

- The 1st immediate benefit of justification is peace with God. Before justification, the unsaved person is at war with God because of sin (v10; 8:7; Isa 48:22; Ps 7:11). Through Christ's death for sin, the enmity with God has ceased and peace has come. Man is brought to the place of a "friend" of God (James 2:23). This "peace with God" refers to the objective fact of having made peace with God. This is not a change in our feelings but a change in God's relationship with us. Once we have this peace with God, we should also experience the "peace of God" (Phil 4:7; John 14:27). The 1st is a fact; the 2nd is a feeling.
- This peace is obtained "*through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Tim 2:5). Jesus is called "*The Prince of Peace*" (Isa 9:6); He came to make peace between God & man (Isa 53:5). The benefit of this peace with God: we have "access" to God.
 - It means direct admission into God's presence through Christ (1 Pet 3:18). We enjoy unhindered communion with Him (Eph 2:13-16).
 - Our access into God's presence involves a new standing of divine favour & love. As we approach God, we may come boldly and with great confidence that we will be received gladly by Him (Heb 4:16).
- Our salvation is anchored in the past (because Jesus paid the price with His blood), it is anchored in the present (because we are sons of God), it is also anchored in the future for we have the promise that we will see the glory of God. Our hope is found in the glory of God. JB Phillips paraphrased the believer's hope as "happy certainty" in the glory of God. We will see God's glory one day (John 17:24) and share in His glory (1 John 3:2).

2. Joy In Tribulations (5:3-4)

- 2nd, we can "*glory in tribulations also.*" This word "tribulations" refers to all kinds of trials which we are called to endure. Christians will suffer tribulations (John 16:33). We "*glory in tribulations also*" carries the meaning of glorying because of tribulations. It is being glad to have tribulations (Acts 16:25).
- One of the blessings of being justified by faith is we can know for certain that, when going through a time of tribulation, God is not punishing us. The word "knowing" means we are to have an eternal perspective. The believer can rejoice in tribulations because he believes that God is in control of everything that happens in his life. God is not merely a spectator; He causes not just good things, but even "bad" things to work together for our good (8:28; cf Gen 50:22).
- We are to rejoice because of what tribulations can produce. Glorying in tribulation does not mean denying the pain (12:15). It is not affliction itself, but affliction rightly borne, that does us good (James 1:2-3).

- Tribulations produce patience or “patient endurance” - the quality of learning to trust in God, waiting upon Him, relying upon His strength in the knowledge that He has nothing in mind for us but our good.
- Out of patience comes experience or “character.” This word means something that has passed the test. When we go through a trial trusting in God, our faith becomes proven (Job 23:10).
- Experience or proven character works hope. It is our tribulations that are weaning us from this world and causing to live for the world to come, so that we would have our hope not in this world, but in glory.

God wants every Christian to grow in patience, experience, and hope through tribulations. Pray that God will send tribulations in your way!

3. Confidence in God’s Love (5:5-8)

- A 3rd blessing that comes from being justified before God is a confident assurance in our experience of God’s great love for us. The Christian hope is such that it will not disappoint, for God’s love is continually “shed abroad” or poured out upon us by the Holy Spirit. Once justified, we enter into a lifelong love relationship with God that lasts forever.
 - We have the inner testimony of the Holy Spirit who assures believers that we are the objects of God’s lavish love.
 - We are assured of this because we already have a foretaste of God’s love – because of what Jesus did for us. He died for us (v8).
- The cross of Jesus is the supreme manifestation of the love of God.
 - This love is sacrificial (vv6,8). The proof of love is always in the gift – what love is willing to give (John 3:16; Gal 2:20). God gave His Son; His Son gave His life.
 - This love is unconditional. God’s love is so great and amazing because it is directed towards worthless objects. Paul uses 4 phrases to describe what we were before we were converted – without strength, ungodly, sinners, and enemies. It is unusual to love the ungodly, but God is so inclined. Jesus came to love the sinner, not the righteous (1 Tim 1:15).
 - This love is incomparable. Paul contrasts divine love with human love. God’s love is a different category altogether (1 John 3:1). God’s love is a love beyond even the best love among humans. It is completely independent of the attractiveness of the object loved. God did much more than men would ever dare to do by laying down His life for His enemies!
- If Christ died for the ungodly, this leaves the ungodly with no excuse if they do not believe in Him unto salvation. V8 emphasizes the fact that the reasons for God’s love are found in Him, not in us. God loves us not because of who we are, but because of who He is. Our salvation depends not on our loveliness, but on the constancy of God’s love.

4. Salvation from God’s Wrath (5:9-11)

- Jesus’ death saves us from God’s wrath. “*Much more...*” introduces an argument from the greater to the lesser. If Christ was willing to die to bring men into a right relationship with God, how much easier it will be for Him to save us from God’s wrath on the final day of judgment? The believer in Christ, being justified by His blood, will never experience God’s wrath because it has been poured out on Christ. We are now “reconciled” to God (John 5:24; 1 Thess 1:10; John 3:36). God sent forth Christ to die for our sins. Now that we are no longer enemies, but reconciled, He will certainly preserve us from final judgment.
- Jesus’ life saves us from our ruin. If God brought us to Himself through the death of His Son when we were His enemies, how much more, now that we are His reconciled children, will He keep us saved by the life of His Son? This is 1 of the strongest promises in NT of the keeping power of God. If God did all of this for us when we were ungodly, how much more now will He keep us saved all the way until we reach eternity. God always finishes what He starts (Heb 12:2; 2 Tim 1:12; Phil 1:6). Our safety depends on God’s nature, not ours. Jesus not only pardons you, He preserves you (John 17:15).
- Having been reconciled with God should fill the believer with present and abounding joy. The believer has a new, single joy. It is the joy of having obtained righteousness, of peace and “atonement” (or reconciliation) with His Maker. 1 of the 1st signs that a person is right with God is joy - having a sense of joy he has never felt before (Acts 13:48; 8:8).
- As believers, we enjoy a favoured status before God. We are the objects of His love and His benefits. Even though we may not have as many material possessions as the unbelievers, we are rich in the benefits of grace (Eph 1:3).

Notes