

THE BLESSINGS OF BEING DECLARED RIGHT WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS

Romans 5:1-11

Our salvation is more than just a ticket to heaven. Salvation encompasses the past, present, and future. It is rooted in Christ's past work on the cross., changes our present, and ends in a glorious future.

1.THE PRESENT BLESSINGS OF BEING DECLARED RIGHT WITH GOD: PEACE, GRACE, AND HOPE –

Romans 5:1-5

- We right now have peace with God. It is not just not no longer being at war with Him in rebellion, but we have a “whole” restored relationship with Him. This peace-making is God's initiative and all from Him. This peace is not something we necessarily feel, but is an objective fact. It is a change of status before God. Being justified or declared right with God is the fountain of all blessings. We have peace with God when once we were His enemies – verse 10. We are declared righteous by God for Christ's sake, His death pays the penalty due our sin and His perfect life counts now as our obedience. Jesus' resurrection is God's stamp of approval on our being declared right with Him – Romans 4:25. All of God's blessings come “through our Lord Jesus Christ”. *“Justification is an act of God's free grace, wherein He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us, and received by faith alone.”* – Westminster Shorter Catechism, 1647.
- We right now have access or introduction into God's grace and presence. We are now standing before Him and confidently approach the throne of our King without fear of being turned aside – Hebrews 4:16; 10:19.
- We right now have hope in the glory of God. Once we fell short of His glory, but now we will share His glory! Once we could not glorify Him, but now we honor Him. But don't suffering and afflictions dampen our hope? No, we confidently boast and rejoice even in afflictions! We have hope even in the ongoing pressures and troubles of life because we know trials produce patience and proven character – James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6,7. Proven character increases our hope. One reason for suffering is to grow us. We grow in endurance and in dependence on God. We also know that our sufferings and afflictions are only temporary – Romans 8:18. Sufferings increase the certainty of our hope.
- We right now have a hope which will not disappoint us even at the future judgment because God's love is poured into our hearts like a flood by the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:15,16. God loves us and will never let us go. We know He loves us even when we don't feel it. We see His love displayed supremely at the cross...

2.THE PAST BASIS OF BEING DECLARED RIGHT WITH GOD – CHRIST'S DEATH FOR SINNERS – Romans

5:6-8

- God's love is proven once for all at the cross. Paul cannot speak of God's love without speaking of the cross of Christ! Those now in Christ were once hopeless sinners. We were not righteous or good and didn't deserve salvation. We were weak, ungodly and sinful! “But God...” –Romans 4:5.
- Christ died for undeserving sinners who were in fact His enemies. We were rebels against our King. But He laid down His life in our place. He is both our Representative and our Substitute. His death is *“for us because it is death suffered in our place.”* He lived the perfect life as the

perfect sacrifice – verse 10. God offered Him up in our place – Romans 3:25,26. God saves us without violating His holy justice because Christ took our penalty on the cross.

3.THE FUTURE ASSURANCE OF BEING DECLARED RIGHT WITH GOD: SAVED FROM WRATH! – Romans 5:9-11

- Reconciliation guarantees future salvation and glory. Because we are reconciled with God He will save His precious children for all eternity, including from the wrath to come – Romans 2:5; 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10; 5:9, 10. In Christ there will be no condemnation now and forever.
- Reconciliation means we are now in God’s family. Once His enemies we are now seated at His table. Not only are we acquitted and not guilty, we are in God’s family forever. The hostility and wrath between us and God have been taken away by Jesus Christ at the cross once for all – 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. We have already been declared righteous by Christ’s blood - Romans 3:24. This is the greatest miracle of grace. How much more then will God finish His work. He will bring home the ones He saved! The future tense of salvation means God will glorify His ransomed, reconciled people– verses 9 and 10 – Romans 8:30 -39. Someday we will not only be freed from the penalty of sin, and the power of sin, but saved completely from the very presence of sin! *“Your blood will never lose its power till all the ransomed church of God be saved to sin no more.”*
- Our response must include rejoicing or boasting confidently in God alone – verse 11, verses 2 and 3. We glory in the cross of Jesus. We boast in God’s grace and love. *“(Rejoicing) should mark the reaction of the believer...(Paul) wants to encourage any who are faltering or downhearted to contemplate again what he or she has in Christ. We have a new relationship with God (justification, peace with God, reconciliation) that provides absolute security for the life to come...and such contemplation can only lead to rejoicing.” – Doug Moo, Romans.* Finding our joy in God leads us to surrender to Him.

Concluding Applications:

- Are you sure you have peace with God?
- Do you trust God and are you rejoicing in God even in tribulations?
- How does the cross of Jesus Christ impact your daily life?
- In what ways does the guarantee of future glory impact your life now?