

IMPLICATIONS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE

Romans 5:1-5

Introduction: Review of Paul's Argument

I. Our Justification Means We Have Peace with God (v.1)

- A. "Peace" is not referring to a feeling, but to the fact that we no longer stand under God's wrath
 - o Paul has made it clear in the prior chapters that we are sinful and are under God's wrath.
 - o Thus, the "peace" Paul mentions is not about satisfying man's wrath towards God, but God's wrath towards man
 - o How exactly does Justification bring this peace with God?
- B. Implications for Conversation with Non-Christian
 - o Our non-Christian friends are not at peace with God, but still stand under his wrath
 - o The key issue is not their problems with God, but God's problems with them!

****Key Point:** Justification is not about a subjective feeling (internal peace), but about an objective change in the divine relationship (peace with God)

II. Our Justification Means We Have Access to God (v.2a)

- A. "Access" Implies an Intimate and Ongoing Relationship with God
 - o Paul takes the blessings of justification to the next level; personal interaction with God is more than just having peace
 - o The term "access" is a likely reference to the tearing of the temple veil
 - o What is it about Justification that allows for this access to God?
- B. "this grace in which we stand" refers to God's favor towards us
 - o It's even more than just access to God; it is access to a God who is for us; who loves us, who gave his own Son to be with us
 - o We have the good favor of the King of the Universe!

****Key Point:** Do you understand the privilege of knowing the God of the universe personally and intimately?



III. Our Justification Means We Have Joy in God (v.2b-5)

A. Joy in Our Future Participation in the Glory of God (v.2b)

- o The word “rejoice” here means “to boast in” or “to revel in” our future glory; it means that we have great anticipation of God’s glory to be revealed
- o The future “glory of God” is likely a reference to the way God will set all things right, including a new heaven and new earth
- o How does Justification provide a foundation for this future hope? What keeps us from rejoicing in the glory that awaits us?

B. Joy in Suffering (v.3-5)

- o Notice Paul doesn’t say we have joy *in spite* of suffering, but *in* suffering
- o We rejoice in suffering because of what it produces in us: endurance, character, hope.



Discussion Groups

1. How does the “peace” Paul discusses contrast with the way the world thinks religion brings peace?

2. How should our “access” to God affect our prayer and devotional lives?

3. How should God’s favor toward us affect our ability to endure suffering with Joy?

4. Can you think of some examples of how God used suffering in your life to change and reshape you and your character?

