

I. Justified with Benefits - Romans 5:1-5

1. Our right standing is “justified” (**verses 1-2**)
Rea - made legally clear
 2. The result - peace with God
Rea -a present possession, not one we must wait until we reach heaven
 3. How? Through our Lord Jesus Christ
 4. Gained...
 - A. Peace
 - B. Access into grace
 - the grace in which we now stand
 - C. We also have hope - so much so that we may boast in it
 - D. We also glory in sufferings (**verses 3-4**)
Rea -we are happy that we are counted (somehow) worthy to suffer for Him
 5. The chain of suffering
 - A. Suffering produces perseverance
 - B. Perseverance produces character
 - C. Character produces hope
 6. Perseverance is the ability to bear up under pressure
Rea -maturing as believers
 7. We produce character
Rea -believers are to be people of character - discuss this
Rea -when you suffer do you win, or let it produce character?
 8. The hope is a confident expectancy (**verse 5**)
 - not “put to shame” - not let down
Rea -My take: - since we have received Holy Spirit we know that we will also receive hope and character in the midst of suffering
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Do you “suffer” well?
 - some of us suffer in the same way as the non-believer - discuss
 2. What sufferings did Paul and the Romans have, and what sufferings do we have today?
 3. What about persecution? - do you feel persecuted for your faith?
 4. So, go back to “peace” - why don’t we experience this peace?

II. Justified Through His Death - Romans 5:6-8

1. Our position:
 - A. We were powerless (**verse 6**)
 - weak and unable to do anything about it
 - B. At a pivotal time
 - compare Galatians 4:4 - in the “fulfillment” of time
 - C. He died for the ungodly
2. Rarely will someone die for a good man - let alone a bad one (**verses 7-8**)
Rea -we believe there are some who “deserve” it

3. God “demonstrates” His love while we were still sinners
-it is a “proven” love then
4. That is how Christ died for us
- Rea 5. We might remind ourselves that He died so we might change from being ungodly, to holy. Some today believe that because He dies for us (in grace) we don’t have to do anything. That is true on the one hand. On the other hand, He died for us to allow us to change to something better- holy, holiness.
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. There might be any number of people we would not die for - but Christ did. How can He do that and we would not?
 2. His love is different from ours - discuss
-should our love be different now that we’re saved?
 3. Psychologists have debated for years about how to help people change - does this passage help people change? And how so?

III. Justified Equals Reconciliation - Romans 5:9-11

1. Justified now (**verse 9**)
Saved later - from wrath (our just punishment)
2. All through the blood
- Rea 3. Note the phrase “how much more” - it is a greater thing to be declared justified than that we will not be held accountable in heaven
-or another way to look at it. Since we have already been “justified,” surely we will also be “saved”
4. Reconciled while “enemies” (**verse 10**)
 - Rea -it is not “logical” that a sinner be reconciled - God turns our logic around
 - Rea -His “mercy” is not bound by “fairness” ideas
 - Rea -now that we are reconciled (present), we will (future) be saved
5. Through His life - options to understand
 - A. The life of Christ in the believer
 - B. There is an obvious parallel between “wrath” and “life” in verses 9 and 10
6. We boast in God (**verse 11**)
 - Rea A. He means we honor, worship the God who did this
 - Rea B. Note that God and Jesus did all this - we did nothing
 - C. The writer says we “brag on” God
7. We’ve received reconciliation
 - Rea -a present possession - it has already happened - God does not wait around to see if we’re “worthy” we are granted “reconciliation.” That ought produce gratitude in the believer.
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Compare deferred “salvation” - when we all get to heaven
-with present “reconciliation” - in the here and now
 2. It is only fair that the guilty suffer while the righteous receive blessings
-the older son resented the prodigal son when he came home for this reason
 3. We have been granted “amnesty?” or a “pardon?”

Charles Ray - SS Lesson for 3-29-20