

GETTING THE GOODS OF GOD'S GRACE

Saturday, May 20

Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!*

Having established that we are all sinners, Paul now affirms that Christ died for sinners. God did not wait for us to be “good enough” to send Jesus. He did not even wait for us to understand our need of a Savior for, as he said in chapter three, that would never happen! Christ died for us when we were still “ungodly, sinners, and enemies” (5:6, 8, 10).

To be “justified” means that God declares the believing sinner righteous because of the blood of Christ. This chapter gives us a wonderful “grocery list” of the benefits we have as believers in Jesus Christ.

1. **PEACE WITH GOD** (5:1) – We are no longer His enemies and no longer need to fear God’s judgment on our sins. They have been forgiven. There is nothing blocking a right relationship with our heavenly Father.
2. **ACCESS TO GOD** (5:2) – We have direct access to the throne of God. We can come into His very presence. Psalm 130:3 asks, “If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?” The answer is “no one!” But we stand by grace and not works. Christ’s righteousness makes us able to stand before God and come to Him as His children.
3. **REJOICE IN HOPE** (5:2) – This blessed hope is that someday we will share God’s glory and live with Him forever. This wonderful promise of God gives believers’ a reason for joy despite what is going on around us.
4. **GLORY IN SUFFERING** (5:3-4) – The world thinks it strange that we can rejoice when trials and problems come. But believers can hold on to the promises of God and remember that He is using these times of suffering to make us more like Christ.
5. **LOVE OF GOD** (5:5-8) – God does not limit His love in our lives. It is “poured out” in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. This extravagant, all-encompassing love was given the greatest demonstration at the cross of Calvary.
6. **SAVED FROM WRATH** (5:9-11) – Paul has spent the good part of his letter till now confirming that humanity stands condemned under the wrath of God. But we who have trusted Christ need no longer fear His wrath. Christ took our wrath at the cross. He paid the penalty for our sins and we are now “reconciled” to God. He has bridged the uncrossable gap between a holy God and sinful humanity so we can have fellowship with one another forever.

POINTS TO PONDER:

“We Have Now Received Reconciliation.” Because Christ has made us right with God, all these benefits are ours for the claiming. How sad that many Christians live their lives without taking full advantage of the wonderful gifts that God has given. How can you claim all God’s benefits and live a full Christian life?