

## Peace with God

- I. Righteousness Needed Because of Sin and Condemnation
  - A. The Condemnation of the PreChristian (1:18-32)
    1. The Cause of Condemnation: willful ignorance (1:18-23)
    2. The Consequence of Condemnation: divine abandonment (1:24-32)
  - B. The Condemnation of the Moral PC (2:1-11)
  - C. The Condemnation of the Unenlightened PC (2:12-16)
  - D. The Condemnation of the Jew (*religious churchgoer*) (2:17-3:8)
    1. They did not keep the law of God (2:17-29)
    2. They did not believe the promises of God (3:1-8)
  - E. The Condemnation of All Mankind (3:9-20)
- II. Righteousness Imputed; Justification (Rom. 3:21-5:21)
  - A. The Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)
  - B. The Illustration of Righteousness: Abraham (4:1-25)
    1. Faith is apart from works (4:1-8)
    2. Faith is apart from rituals—circumcision (4:9-12)
    3. Faith has God as its Object (4:16-25)
  - C. The Benefits of Righteousness (5:1-11)

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## Peace with God

Do you really understand that if you are in Christ, then you are truly justified—**declared of worth?**

Do you really believe it?

**Chapter 5:** The Results of Justification.

In chapter 5, Paul gives us three direct results of our justification and thus three reasons to rejoice!

**I believe these to be sequential in growth and experience.**

1. We learn to rejoice in our new position in Christ (1-2)
2. We learn to rejoice in our present trials (3-10)
3. We learn to rejoice in God Himself (11-21)

Learning to rejoice in our new position in Christ (1-2)

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**v.1** – “Therefore, **having been justified** by faith”

- justified is in the *aoi* participle
  - Paul is not saying: *being declared righteous* as an ongoing process.
  - But *having been declared righteous* looks back to a fact that happened in the past. (remember faith?)
  - The moment you believed, God declared you righteous, never to change His mind. (*Rom. 4:8*)

1. Justification brings peace with God.

- **v.1** “we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ”
- Peace with God means that God has NOTHING against us.
  - He has fully judged sin, upon Christ, our Substitute
  - He was so completely satisfied with Christ’s sacrifice, that He will eternally remain so; never taking up the judgment of our sin again
  - He is now at rest about us forever!

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## Peace with God

- Peace with God has four immediate results:
  - 1) We lose our fear of God.
  - 2) We lose our fear of death.
  - 3) We have the answer to the attacks of fear and doubt.
  - 4) We have the answer to the accusation of our own consciences when we do sin.
- 2. Justification allows direct access to the King.
  - **v.2** “into *this grace in which we stand*,”
  - Who would dare stand before the God of all, the God of majesty and power and greatness and glory and holiness, unless he had been given permission?
  - The wonder of this promise is that we have been given a divine invitation to direct access **by** His grace **through** faith. (*Eph 2:8,9*)
- 3. Justification enables us to look to the future with hope.

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Learning to rejoice in our present trials (3-10)

- **vv.3-5** tribulations → perseverance → proven character → hope
- Why?
- **v.5** “because the love of God has been poured out”
- Paul spends the rest of this section substantiating the fact that it is God’s love for us that allows us to go through the crucible of tribulation.
  - *2 Cor. 4:8-10; 6:4-10; 11:23-27*
- The Three-fold Proof of God’s Love for Us.
  1. **v.6** – While we were still *helpless*
    - God sent His Son to die for us while we were in a state of complete and utter helplessness—completely worthless

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2. **v.8** – While we were yet *sinn*ers
    - “sinners” is much stronger than “helpless”
    - Strong in the wrong direction!
    - He proved His amazing love toward us while we were still wretches occupied in sin, unable and unwilling to obey Him.
    - “This is absolute grace.” (Newell)
  3. **v.10** – While we were *enemies*
    - “enemies” (*echthros*) is much stronger than either “helpless” or “sinners”
    - It involves a personal alienation and blatant animosity.
    - Rom. 8:6-7 “hostile” (*echthra*—enemies)
- While we were helpless, sinners, enemies, God sent His Son to restore peace and direct access to Him! (*1 John 4:10*)

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## Peace with God

Tribulations and trials weaken us, make us less dependent on our strengths, abilities and gifts, and cast us helplessly and hopelessly at His feet—where we experience true life, life abundantly.

Are you learning to rejoice in your new position in Christ?

Are you learning to rejoice in your present trials?

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