

THERE'S MORE TO THE STORY

Romans 5:1-11

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith[b] into this grace in which we stand, and we[c] rejoice[d] in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

INTRODUCTION:

We have been justified by faith!

This was Paul's main argument in the first four chapters: that we are all guilty of sin— both Jews and Gentiles. Yet through Jesus' death, He has given us His righteousness taken our guilt and sin upon Himself on the cross. This divine exchange means that *God has declared us righteous*. A legal change of status from sinner to saint.

But that is not all the blessings God has given us through His son.

DISCUSS

1. Peace with God (5:1)

More than a cease-fire with God. More than the relationship moving from a negative to neutral state. God blesses us in bringing that relationship to a positive state. We now have *peace with God*. This isn't just internal calmness (though that may be a side outcome), but a *reconciliation* with the God whom we have hated and rejected. We no longer live under judgment but in *friendship* with God, through Jesus Christ. This is the first present blessing we now have.

Where in your life do you struggle to believe that you truly have peace with God?

2. Grace in which we stand (Romans 5:2a)

The second blessing of being justified is that we now have “*gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand*”. Grace here isn’t just a one-time gift... we stand in it.

Paul’s use of the word ‘grace’ in connection with ‘standing’ creates the image of being in a new ‘place’ where we ‘live’ and ‘belong’. Grace is our new ‘home’.

This is a figurative way of saying that we are rooted in a permanent state of God’s undeserved favour and kindness every single day. We don’t drift in and out of His grace.

Do you ever feel like you’ve stepped out of God's grace? How does standing in grace—permanently—change the way you view your good days and your bad ones?

3. A guaranteed Hope (2b; 6-11)

Paul also calls the Roman Christians to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”.

The biblical word for “hope” is not just wishful thinking – it’s a solid certainty of the future. It will happen, we will be glorified and see God face to face.

Paul makes this argument in verses 9-10. And it goes like this: If God has done the more difficult thing in the *past*, he will surely do the easier thing in the *future*.

Notice the past tenses in verses 9 and 10 – **we have now been justified** (v9a); and while we were enemies we **reconciled to God by the death of his Son** (v10a). This is the harder thing that God has already done for us in Jesus' death.

Paul then continues with the same word “much more” (v9 & 10), showing that the past actions will guarantee future actions.

So what will God do for us in the future? Notice the future tenses. “**Shall we be saved by him from wrath**” (v9b); and “**shall we be saved by his life**” (v10b).

God promises that since we have already been justified (past), and reconciled (past/present), we will be saved from the future wrath (future) on judgment day.

What assurance this gives us for life!

Extra Reading

He makes a similar argument throughout verses 6-11: that if God has loved us while we were “weak” (v6a), “ungodly”(v6b), “sinners”(v8); and “enemies” (v10), surely he will save his friends who have “now received reconciliation” (v11).

How does knowing that your future salvation is guaranteed by Jesus' life shape the way you face fear or uncertainty today?

4. Rejoicing in Suffering (Romans 5:3-4)

In light of this magnificent salvation that Paul calls us to rejoice. He also, surprisingly, calls believers to rejoice even in suffering.

This is not because pain is good, but because suffering has a purpose. Suffering produces the virtues of endurance, tested character, and hope.

Again, Paul links it back to hope: the more we walk through trials with Jesus, the clearer our picture of salvation is, and the more intensified is our certain hope we have in the glory to come.

Can you think of a past season of suffering where God used it to grow your endurance, tested character, or hope? What did you learn about Him?

Pray For:

1. Thank God for the peace we now have with Him through Jesus.

Pray that this peace would move from head knowledge to heart assurance, especially in moments of guilt, fear, or spiritual dryness.

2. Ask God to help you stand firmly in His grace—on both good days and bad.

Pray for deeper confidence that His love is not conditional, and that you would live from the security of belonging in His grace.

3. Pray for endurance in suffering and a brighter vision of your future hope.

- Ask that in trials, your heart would not grow cold or bitter, but that God would use your struggles to deepen your trust and joy in the coming glory.