



Five Sermons on Romans 5:
Justification—Part A
(Romans 5:1-2)

Romans 5:1-11

5 Therefore, 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 into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice 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.

Romans 5:1-11

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 of the Series:

“Five Sermons on Romans 5”

- Following a systematic Bible reading plan → the creation of this series
- Romans 5 offers us an opportunity to review Christian doctrines, thereby contributing to our response to Christ’s commandment to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19).
- Deeper intellectual understanding of Christian doctrines enhances and multiplies our emotional/mystical experiences with the Lord.
- A caveat: do not be alarmed if our discussion of doctrines includes “going off on tangents” and “circular thinking” (i.e., returning at times to where we were before) in order to wrap our brains around the nuances of the doctrines.
- This series is not exhaustive, i.e., we will discuss only a few of the doctrines that form the substructure of Christian belief, and at that only at a surface-level exploration.

Five Sermons on Romans 5

- Sermon #1: **Justification** (Romans 5:1-2)
- Sermon #2: **Sanctification** (Romans 5:3-5)
- Sermon #3: **Substitution** (Romans 5:6-8)
- Sermon #4: **Propitiation** (Romans 5:9-10)
- Sermon #5: **Reconciliation** (Romans 5:11)

Sermon #1: Justification

(Romans 5:1-2)

- **5** Therefore, 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 into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Sermon #1: Outline

- What we want: Happiness (both in this life and in the afterlife)
- “Salvation” Defined
- “Justification” Defined
- Summary

Question: What Do We Want?

Answer: Happiness

- We want to be happy in this life
 - Contentment
 - Purpose
 - Flourishing
- We want to be happy in the afterlife (immortality):
 - Together with God
 - Reunited with loved ones
 - In a state of eternal bliss
- We want to avoid condemnation in the afterlife:
 - Hell as a place/state of torment

Question: What Do We Want?

Answer: Happiness

- “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent” (John 17:3)
- Aristotle: Happiness is the ultimate goal; everything that humans do is a means to that end
- Scripture: A relationship with God is the ultimate goal; by having that, other secondary blessings are obtained as well, such as happiness

“Salvation”: A Semantic Analysis

- A rescuer, a “rescue-ee”, something rescued from
- To save someone from something
- To save human beings from the condemning effects of their sins (i.e. from the righteous justice and wrath of God)

“Salvation” Defined

- “A broad term referring to God’s activity on behalf of creation and especially humans in **bringing all things to God’s intended goal.**”
- “Salvation entails God’s deliverance of humans from the power and effects of sin and the Fall through the work of Jesus Christ so that creation in general and humans in particular **can enjoy the fullness of life intended for what God has made.**”

--Stanley Grenz, et. al., *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*

- “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

“Salvation” Defined

- From the Hebrew:
- “The common Hebrew words for salvation, deriving ultimately from a root word meaning width, spaciousness, **freedom from constraint**, hence deliverance . . . Preservation from any danger”

--Baker Reference Library, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd Ed.

“Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved”
(Psalm 80:19).

What “Salvation” Means to Paul

- “Paul’s own testimony is almost wholly positive: salvation has brought him
- peace with God,
- access to God’s favor and presence,
- hope of regaining the glory intended for men,
- endurance in suffering,
- steadfast character,
- an optimistic mind,
- inner motivations of divine love and power of the Spirit,
- ongoing experience of the risen Christ within his soul,
- and sustaining joy in God (Romans 5:1-11).”

--R.E.O. White, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd Ed.

The Need of the Cross for Salvation

- “The cross is absolutely central to salvation as the New Testament sees it. This is distinctive of Christianity. Other religions have their martyrs, but the death of Jesus was not that of a martyr. It was that of a Savior. His death saves people from their sins. Christ took their place and died their death”
 - -- L. L. Morris, “Atonement,” *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, 2nd Ed.
- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16)
- “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, **and to give his life as a ransom for many.**” (Mark 10:45)

Summary

- **Happiness** is not the ultimate goal for the Christian; it is, instead, a result of us having a right relationship with God.
- **Salvation** is not the result of our good works. Salvation is a gift of grace from God to us that we receive through faith in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ by His death on the cross. Salvation results in us being freed from the punishment by God for our unrighteousness (sins) and with us regaining a right relationship with God.
- **Justification** is a legal term that describes when God eliminates our sin-ledger and declares us righteous before Him. Our verdict in the court of God is one of “innocent.”



Let Us Pray

