

## Romans Chapter 5: (1 - 12)

### The Benefits Justification Brings

**1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because we have been justified by faith what are the things that happen; we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The first thing that comes up, the benefit is, we got peace with God, we got reconciliation, and the idea is peace with God has two aspects. When everybody talks you about peace, it is just like righteousness, the two aspects of it, peace is also the two aspects of it, one is basically the objective peace with God and the other one is the subjective peace of God.

This peace with God is basically objective. It means as a sinner basically we got God's wrath, judgment, we are enemy and we are alienated from God. Now by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we are in His grace now.

The prophesy in Isaiah 9 says,

**6** For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7** Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

So Jesus is the one that brings peace and reconciliation. Romans 5 says

**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.

So reconciliation is more than just making peace. There is a cost to reconciliation.

Colossians 1:

**20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

**22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Jesus Christ paid the cost for us. So therefore it is fully paid, so we are not only in peace with God, we also have reconciliation with him. So this peace is objective, we are no longer at war, we can pray to God and He will listen to us.

## 2. Access Into Grace

**1** 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.

Grace is unmerited favour which we have received through Jesus. When we live in the realm of grace you expect freedom, prosperity, you expect to be dealt differently. When we live under slavery, it is completely different. We have access by faith into this grace, justification as well as living in the realm of grace. When God looks at us now He no longer looks at us as if we got to earn salvation, because whatever we do we can never earn it. So everything it does, God gives grace. So we live in era of grace. It is like we live in the land of grace where Jesus rules.

## 3. Hope of glory.

We rejoice in the hope of glory. The word 'rejoice' is an interesting word. It means exalt, boast, triumphant, rejoicing, confidence. We are asked to exalt in the hope of glory. To understand what glory is 1 Corinthians 11

**15** but if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For her hair is given to her for a covering.

Woman's glory is in her hair. The glory is something that makes us proud. The glory of God as defined by John Piper,

*"The glory of God is the infinite beauty and greatness of God's manifold perfections."*

He is perfect in His love. He is perfect in His integrity. He is perfect in His power. In every situation, every characteristic He has He is perfect.

Keller describes as,

*"God's glory is God's weightiness in wonderful qualities such as might, beauty, goodness, justice, and honour."*

Our glory is a reflection of His glory. We actually have no glory of our own. We lost our glory when we sinned against God. So therefore Paul says in Romans 3:

**23 all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**

Our actual destiny is the glory of God that could last for ever and ever. So therefore how do we get our destiny back?

2 Corinthians 3:

**18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

So basically we have lost the glory of God, now we have been justified by faith, but we have a in between period where we are trying to moving towards the glory of God. We rejoice because we have hope of glory. We change by beholding the glory of Jesus is like the mirror. We look at the mirror and we see Jesus and the more we see of Jesus, the more it reflects back on you because this passage talks about when Moses interacted with God. When he came back his face was shining, this was the glory of God. The metaphor is the same when we behold our Lord Jesus Christ from the scripture, that shining will come back on us and our character changes. The character assumes the glory and the character of God, the beauty is not our physical beauty but the beauty is our character. So as more we behold we are being transformed.

The medal that we have is not something that we have earned, it is given to us and it cannot be taken away.

#### 4. Hope in Suffering

We also rejoice in our sufferings because suffering produces endurance and here we actually have rejoicing, hope of glory. It is very funny, you rejoice not only in the prospect of sharing God's glory.

200-300 years ago the world view is that if you got eight children you expect half of them to die, they are prepared. So in this generation when we actually have suffering we will act very differently because our world view is "why", why is it happening to me? We think that happiness is our birth right.

There are three general ways in which we handle suffering in the world.

1. We either suppress it.

The most common is a stoic. They do not care about their sufferings, they always suppress it, they try to ignore it. This comes from Ancient stoics, "*A man is not affected by events but by the view he takes.*"

So if something happens to you all you have to do is just change your attitude. We harden our heart, we deaden our feeling. If we do that we actually cut yourself from your real self. Because we are not allowed to feel and we become less of a human being. How do the stoics

handle things to suppress the pain? They suppress it by drinking brandy or vodka as possible, you deaden the pain, or you take drugs, have sex, you do activities but the problem with attitude is after the effect of alcohol or drugs wears off the pain comes back again and again.

It is a fact we all run away and do something; we are all stoics to certain extent. We try to anesthetize our feelings. Jesus wept, Job ripped off his clothes and screamed, Jeremiah was a crying prophet. Christians should not be afraid to show their feelings, we are not stoics. We are not less of a person if we cry. We need to be in touch with those feelings.

## 2. We enjoy it.

Masochists are the ones who rejoice for their suffering or enjoy their suffering.

Elizabeth Wurtzel is a modern day masochist. She wrote the book Prozac Nation. She wrote, *"In a strange way, I had fallen in love with my depression. Dr. Sterling was right about that. I loved it because I thought it was all I had. I thought depression was the part of my character that made me worthwhile. I thought so little of myself, felt that I had such scant offerings to give to the world, that the one thing that justified my existence at all was my agony."*

So the pain is something she cannot get rid of except taking the Prozac but it makes her life purposeful. So she finds purpose in her pain.

## 3. We own it and expect to grow from it.

So therefore if we get hit we express our pain by screaming. This is the most natural psychological way for us to adapt to pain.

These are the three things that the world does. Now how do Christians adapt to pain?

Prosperity gospel says, you see no evil, say no evil and hear no evil. These people believe that the kingdom of God has come now, it is already here. They will use Isaiah 53:

**9 By his stripes you have been healed.**

It means that tomorrow if we get cancer, we just sit down and say we do not have any cancer. In that way life is only made of blessing.

Kate Bowler, professor at Dukes University, wrote a piece on the history of American Prosperity Gospel and out of how many years of research suddenly she actually had stage IV stomach cancer. This article was written in February 13, 2016 and then she applied the prosperity gospel to her life and it is very-very difficult. This is how she ends her article in New York Times,

*"They face the impossible and demand that God make a way. They refuse to accept crippling debt as insurmountable. They stubbornly get out of their hospital beds and declare*

*themselves healed, and every now and then, it works. This is surely an American God, and as I am so far from home, I cannot escape him."*

It means that there are people who believe like the monkeys, you do not see any evil, you do not say any evil, as long as I can believe and say the word of faith I shall be healed.

The proper biblical response is to redeem your suffering. Suffering has now become a path to glory. If we look at the cross of Jesus Christ, the greatest most evil event on the cross has turned out to be the most glorious event, why, because through that one death on the cross the entire world becomes saved. So therefore Jesus shows us, in true Christianity suffering is a path to glory. That is why Paul says, you can rejoice in suffering because it is a path to glory.

Luke 6:

**21: Blessed are you who weep for now, for you will laugh.**

There are two aspects of it, you can laugh and you can also weep and you are all within the same dimensions of your experience.

1 Peter 4:

**13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.**

Romans 5:

**3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,**

There is a volitional component to this; it does not mean that everybody who suffers has a hope of glory. We have to endure in that situation. If we run away it is not going to produce character, it is not going to produce hope, how can it be because we never stay. So we can rejoice if we know and we apply it. So Paul is saying this is the benefit of justification, you can even redeem your suffering. You know you live in this world you have suffering but you can redeem the suffering, how, by persisting. Persistence will produce character.

Romans chapter 8:

**16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

**17 and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.**

Jesus suffered then got glory. If that happened to Jesus it will happen to us also. So the path to glory is suffering.

Philippians chapter 3:

**10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,**

**11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

The resurrection from the dead brings glory, sharing in suffering is becoming like him in death. So basically he is asking us to be like him in death. It is because of this other idea that we must have blessing all the time. Being Christian is an understanding that we are people of the cross, these people die. Real Christianity is suffering.

Suffering is the removal of all the props in your life.

1 Peter talks about our faith which is basically strongly purer than gold. When gold is put in furnace, the impurities (dross) float to the top and they skin the impurities off. So when you suffer all your false ideas like career, money, pleasure, all that skims to your top and it get pushed away and we find our real priorities in life and when we find real priorities in life then your faith comes up like gold basically. Nick Vujicic when he was 9 years old always questioned God why did God made me without arms or legs. He tried to kill himself but his father pulled him out and saved him. Even with that kind of suffering that he had today God uses him to minister to multitudes.

The three compatriots of Daniel (*Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego*) were thrown into the furnace. They said to Nebuchadnezzar, our God will save us or not we are not going to pray to you. In the furnace God came to protect them. The story tells us that sometimes when God throws us into the furnace, we get upset but he is still there with us. That is the difference. We all think that salvation is God not throwing me into the furnace but actually a lot of time God throws us in the furnace but he is there with you in the furnace and the biggest furnace in the world is actually is in the shape of the cross. So we redeem our suffering because it is a path to glory and we also experience God's love.

**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.**

When we suffer God's love is poured into our hearts through Holy Spirit. The more suffering comes the more power and energy God pours into our hearts and we feel His love. We really feel His love when God saves you from the pain. If we do not go through the pain we will not feel it. So we actually have God's love being poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that He has given us. That is when God hugs us. There is certainly a difference between God walking with you and God hugging you. God hugs you when you are in pain.

How do we know God loves us?

Finally sometime when we suffer we will feel that as if God is cursing us. God does not curse us anymore because we live in the land of grace. Every time God looks at us is by grace, no more judgment anymore that is finished.

**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.

**12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned —

There is a philosophical argument here. It is an argument from the greater to the lesser. In our previous life we were horrible people but still God accepted us, so now how much precious we are in the eyes of God. If He was able to take us out at that worst time in our life when we were trapped in sin, he is more than able right now to deliver us.