

A Gift that Keeps on Giving

Romans 5:1-2

In the first four chapters of Romans Paul has explained how ungodly people are justified by God's free grace (Romans 3:24). This gift of justification for a believer means that God treats me (1). "**just as if I never sinned**" and (2). "**just as if I fully obeyed.**" I am justified by His grace through Jesus Christ's work on my behalf and I come into an assurance of my justification **through** my faith in Him. However, when I come to realize what I have in God's gift of justification to me, I open a gift that keeps on giving. In the first two verses of Romans 5 Paul describes three wonderful benefits of my justification.

I. Peace

"Therefore, being justified (through) faith, we have peace with God" (Rom. 5:1).

When a sinner comes to terms with what God has done for him through Jesus Christ:

"The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever" (Isaiah 32:17). Some of our men described peace this way:

- (1). **A cessation of hostilities** --- we are no longer at war with God (Rom. 8:7).
- (2). **No looking over your shoulder for an approaching enemy** (II Thess. 3:16).
- (3). **Rather than God condemning us, God brags on us** (Colossians 3:21-22).
- (4). **No fear of meeting our Creator face to face in death** (Mark 1:11).
- (5). **There is no longer any need to hide from Christ in life** (Eph. 1:12).

"In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him."

The world seeks peace and rest and finds a sorry substitute in the things of life. But the only peace that is real and is independent of one's circumstances is the peace that a believer finds **through our Lord Jesus Christ**. *"Let us have peace with God."*

II. Access

"By whom we also have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand" (Rom. 5:2).

What does it mean to have access to a place where we "*stand in grace*"? *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in our time of need"* (Hebrews 4:16). This is an open-ended promise. When do you need grace? When do you need favor? You have it through Christ.

III. Joy

"And rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Rom. 5:2).

The glory of God is most often used to represent His revealed presence. One of the blessings of justification is joy over the prospect of meeting God face to face. On judgment day Jesus Christ will come "*with great power and glory*" (Mk. 13:26). *"And we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father"* (John 1:14). For the justified person, the day of judgment is a day of great joy ---

- (1). **There is joy for the believer** --- in receiving the inheritance set aside for him. (I Peter 1:4; **Heb. 11:25-26**; Romans 4:13; Philippians 3:20-21; II Pet. 5:10).
- (2). **There is joy for Christ** --- who gives the inheritance to His people.

"Who for the joy set before him, endured the cross . . ." (Hebrews 12:2).