

"The Doctrine of Justification"

Romans 3:21-5:11

Part 14

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we were in chapter 5 and we were looking at verses 1 and 2. It is in this chapter that Paul shows us the blessings that we have THROUGH Christ and His finished work upon the cross. Paul is speaking here to those who would question if faith is enough to save a sinner and then to secure his or her justification. There were many in Paul's day who wanted to add works to salvation, ceremonies to salvation, keeping the Law to salvation or a man-made list of do and don'ts to salvation. In other words there were people in Paul's day just as in our day who teach that in order to maintain our salvation or our justification we must do certain things or live a certain way after we are saved and if we don't then we lose the "FREE GIFT" which God has given to us by GRACE through FAITH.

Notice Romans 5:1a

The first statement in this verse is the foundation upon which the blessings that are listed hereafter rest. We have been justified which means we are declared righteous because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross when He paid the entire sin debt that we had accumulated. When we repent and place our faith in His substitutionary death and resurrection our sins are removed from our account and the righteousness of God is imputed to our account. This is a ONE TIME legal action which takes place and so we are FOREVER JUSTIFIED. This ONE TIME legal action then opens the door for many spiritual blessings.

I. The Security of the Believer

Part 3

1. We now have peace WITH God.

Notice Romans 5:1

2. We now have ACCESS into the presence of God by the GRACE which we stand in.

Notice Romans 5:2a

3. We rejoice in the hope of the GLORY of God.

Notice Romans 5:2

We stepped into this though briefly last week and so I want to refresh your memory on what Paul is saying here.

The "GLORY OF GOD" is the full manifestation of His Person. We see this in Hebrews when the writer speaks of how Jesus is the brightness of God's glory.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

³ Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

Jesus Christ was God in human form and so He was the express image of His person.

When Paul writes that we rejoice in hope of the glory of God he is referring to a day when we will be glorified, and we will manifest the Person of God perfectly with our lives. Today as we walk this earth as believers people see glimpses of God's Person within us but many times His Person is veiled because of these bodies of sin which we live in. But there is coming a day when we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁵⁴ So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

This future GLORIFICATION is so sure that God Paul speaks as if it is already complete in Romans 8.

Romans 8:28-30

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

The word "GLORIFIED" here in Romans 8:30 is in the past tense and so in the mind of God it is already finished and complete. We are guaranteed to reach this final glorification. It will be when we receive our glorified bodies and we will then manifest the Person of God in our lives.

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

This is what the entire creation is waiting for.

Romans 8:19

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

When we receive our glorified bodies, we will radiate the glory of God.

Colossians 3:4

⁴ When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Let me show you something else the writer of Hebrews has recorded.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

God has saved us to bring us into glory or to glorify us. Now looking at Hebrews 2:9-10 we can clearly see that it is Christ who brings us to glory not we ourselves. God has saved us, and He will see that we eventually reach this final glorification.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

You see, the finished product of our salvation, which is glorification, depends upon God to complete what He has started in us and this verse tells us God WILL complete what He has started.

This is exactly why Paul says we can "REJOICE" in the hope of the glory of God. The word "rejoice" really means "to boast" and it is the highest form of rejoicing. We can be sure that we will reach our glorification not because of what we do but because of what Jesus did on the cross for us. Through Him we have this hope.

4. We rejoice in tribulations.

Notice Romans 5:3-4

Before we get into these verses I really need to show you the words of Stedman on the thought here concerning rejoicing in tribulations.

"Paul takes the very worst things about life -- the periods of heartache and sorrow and disappointment, the tears, the crying, the heartbreaks of life -- the suffering, and he says it makes us rejoice: We rejoice in our sufferings. Now, I believe it is time that we Christians take these words very seriously, because this is no special standard, reserved for just a few wonderful saints who, by virtue of great faith, are able to live on this high level -- this is the normal expectation of every Christian [The Normal Christian Life]. Oh, I wish I could shout that, sing it, paint it -- I don't care how -- just so I could get across that message! This is what God expects of every Christian, and he not only expects it, but provides for it. Anything less than this is simply sub-Christian living. Have you learned to live on this level? Have you learned to rejoice in suffering? Or, do you still gripe and complain and grumble and murmur about all the circumstances that come? Do you remember the story of Sophie, the scrub woman, who lived in New York City, and made her

*living scrubbing floors in the skyscrapers of New York? By that means, she earned thousands of dollars to send out missionaries. That one woman supported some twenty or thirty missionaries, alone. Sophie had a wonderful character of glory about her all the time -- so much so that she used to cause people to stop her and ask what her secret was. On several occasions, while she was working, some office worker would come to work late and would say to her, "Sophie, I wish I had your faith -- I wish I knew God like you know him." And she would say, "Well, if you would read your New Testament right, you could know him." This person would say, "Well, I read my Bible." In fact, she said this one time to a minister. He said, "I read the Bible -- I read the Bible in Greek and Hebrew." And she said, "Well, you don't read it right!" And he said, "What do you mean?" "Well," she said, "when it says g-l-o-r-y in tribulations, you read it g-r-o-w-l, growl. That is the trouble with you, that is why you don't have joy in your heart, you growl in tribulation." That is exactly what Paul is getting at here, you see. Someone has said that the definition of a Christian is a one who is: **Completely fearless, Continually cheerful, and Constantly in trouble!** That's true! Do you know the secret to that kind of Christianity? Let's face it -- most of us feel, really, that being a Christian should excuse us somewhat from trials and sufferings. I know that, if we are asked, we would say that we realize that sufferings may come, but that we don't think of them as really necessary. We think that sufferings are sort of signs that something is wrong, that, if we keep in fellowship with Christ, things ought to go well. And, if we have difficulty, we feel it is a sign that we are out of fellowship, or that Christianity doesn't really work after all."*

Now let me get you to what Paul is saying. He is telling us that we can rejoice in the tribulations of life because as believers we know that PRESSURE and that is what tribulations mean, builds character in our lives. But it goes even beyond this when we understand the meaning of some words here.

The word "patience" means "endurance". As we go through times of pressure in our lives there develops within us an endurance. The greater the pressure the greater the product of endurance. This endurance then produces "EXPERIENCE" we are told in 5:4. The word "EXPERIENCE" has the idea of testing or proving something to prove that it is genuine.

The Greek word here for the word "experience" is "dokime". Now let me show you what Barnhouse says concerning the use of this word.

"In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into molds and allowed to cool. When the coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft, and of course many people shaved them closely. In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens to stop the practice of whittling down the coins then in circulation. But some money-changers were men of integrity, who

would accept no counterfeit money; they were men of honour who put only genuine, full-weight money into circulation. Such men were called "dokimos", and this word is used here for the Christian as he is to be seen by the world."

So, let me pull this together and help you to see what Paul is saying. We can rejoice in tribulation as we mature in our walk because we know that tribulation will build our endurance and as we endure the tribulations they work as a fire/furnace to burn away the dross from our lives so as to reveal or prove that we are TRUE believers. In other words, as the tribulation builds endurance and we stand firm in the trials the fires of the tribulation burn away the dross [that which hinders and veils the Person of God in us] and it reveals more of the Person of God in our lives.

The tribulation works then as a purifier. We rejoice because no matter how hot the heat from the furnace it can never take away our hope of the glory of God. But instead it reveals more of the glory of God while we walk this earth thus proving that we are genuine believers. Remember the words of Malachi?

Malachi 3:3

³ And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

God is our REFINER. He controls the heat of the furnace and He keeps us through the fires all the while controlling the heat. Too much will jeopardize the character too little will not burn away the dross. He is working just as a silver smith does and He is looking to see His reflection in us.

The tribulations are unavoidable because we live in a world that is under the curse. But God is in control of each one that we face. Let me show you what Paul revealed to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 3:2-4

² And sent Timothy, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

³ That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

⁴ For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation: even as it came to pass, and ye know.

Let me show you a verse that we looked at earlier.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

One of the ways in which God works in our life to make us like Christ is through the furnaces of affliction/the tribulation.

Notice Romans 5:4 again.

When we learn this Truth and we see the endurance and we see the glory of God shining more and more in our lives this then produces HOPE. In our words it increases our assurance that we belong to God and through Christ we are secure.

Conclusion:

Notice Romans 5:5a

This HOPE will never disappoint, that is the meaning here. We rest our faith in Christ and we stand fast in the trials of tribulations and we see a building of endurance which leads to a deeper purification and removal of the dross from our lives and we see more of Christ in us as do the people around us. This builds our HOPE in the Lord and this HOPE will never leave us disappointed.

*For every hill I've had to climb,
For every stone that bruised my feet,
For all the blood and tears and grime,
For blinding storms and burning heat,
My heart sings but a grateful song
These were the things that made me strong!*

The difficulties of life are intended by God to make us better—not bitter!