

Oakland International Fellowship Calvin Chiang

# Romans 5:1-11: Handout

A Faith Worth Believing

## The Blessings of Justification (Romans 5:1-5)

**Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

1. Since Christians has been declared righteous by faith, the result of our justification is peace with God. (5:1-2)
   1. This peace is not conditional on our goodness or on our degree of sanctification, but grounded in Christ. This peace is an objective fact and not a subjective feeling.
   2. We were once God’s enemies, but this peace with God is the removal of the alienation and hostility between God and us. To be able to live in His presence without fear of rejection. We have full access to God’s presence and favor.
   3. Lack of peace with many Christians today. (Fear of God’s wrath, judgment, feeling unworthy)
2. While the Christian may face trouble and distress in their lives, they rejoice in the hope of the future glory of God that will not disappoint. These sufferings or tribulations may cause them to lose hope but God uses it to develop his character in them, specifically in developing perseverance, character, and hope. (5:3-5)
   1. Christians rejoices during sufferings since suffering produce perseverance (the ability to hold out in the face of difficulty), character (experience of going through a test), and hope (enables us to know why we are who we are and know where we are going).
   2. Our hope of glory and resurrection does not disappoint us because the Holy Spirit (God’s presence with us) is given to us as a down payment so we can have a preview of what we will experience on the day when the Lord returns again.

**2. Contrast of God’s Love vs. Human Love (Romans 5:6-8)**

1. Before we experienced God’s working in our lives, when we were without hope, without God, while we were powerless and ungodly, Christ died for us. (5:6)
2. Our inability to save ourselves or reconcile ourselves to God. Totally cut off from Him by our sins.
3. God didn’t wait for us to improve our behavior and increase our merit before He took steps to help us. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners (Matt. 9:13)
4. The cross is the ultimate demonstration of God’s love for you.
5. The word demonstrates here means to provide evidence of a personal characteristic or claim through action, bring out something.
6. Demonstrate “for us”. The “for” here is marks an activity or event in someone else’s interest. Christ made it very clear that He died for you, on your behalf for your sins.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45).

**3. Salvation from God’s Wrath (Romans 5:9-11)**

**9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath *of God* through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

1. Paul implies in these verses that the most difficult part has already taken place. We have been justified by means of His blood. Christians will be saved from God’s wrath having been declared righteous through Christ’s blood.
2. Christians are now reconciled to God (exchanging the hostility for a friendly relationship). Instead of estrangement and hostility, there is harmony and friendship instead. There is now peace with God (5:1).
3. Christians should rejoice in God through Christ since they are now reconciled to God. (5:11)

**4. Conclusion:**

God has always shown us His unique way of love and favor. And He did this while we were still His enemies. Now that we are assured of our salvation and know that He will not give up on us in the future, we are at peace with Him. Praise Him.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Is suffering an indication that God does not love us or that He is punishing us?
2. How can a knowledge of the process of character change help us to rejoice in our sufferings?
3. This passage gives us many reasons to rejoice in Christ. What are some things that you are thankful for?