



Romans 5:1-11

THE BLESSINGS OF SALVATION

It has ever been one of the characteristics of the greatest saints that they have spent much time in meditating upon the love of Christ to themselves and to all God's people. Nothing has given them greater joy. Indeed, this is a characteristic of love at all levels: it delights in thinking not only of the object of its love, but also of the love it receives. Nothing therefore should give greater joy to all God's people than to meditate upon this love of Christ. Indeed, our chief defect as Christians is that we fail to realize Christ's love to us. How often have you thought about this? We spend time thinking about our activities and our problems, but the most important necessity in the Christian life is to know Christ's love to us, and to meditate upon it. This has always been the spring and the source of the greatest activity that has ever been manifested in the long history of the Christian Church.

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1899-1981)

Therefore, having been justified by faith... (5:1).

- **Therefore.** In light of the fact that we are sinners (1:18-3:20) saved by Jesus' death and resurrection (3:21-4:25).
- **Having been justified.** Declared righteous in God's sight (3:24). A past completed act accomplished by God through Christ.
- **By faith.** Salvation is received by faith alone in Christ (4:1-25).

In Romans 5, Paul shifts to the first person plural to describe all the blessings that we have as believers in Jesus Christ.

1. WE ARE _____ IN PEACE (5:1).

- Peace is not only the absence of conflict but also the fullness of _____ (cf. Eph. 2:14-22).
- The Hebrew, *shalom*, pictures everything in harmony—wholeness, completeness (cf. Isaiah 26:3; Ezek. 37:24-28).

2. WE ARE _____ BY GRACE (5:2).

- Grace (*charis*) is _____. It is "undeserved, unsolicited, unconditional love" (Stott).
- Christ has escorted us into the very presence of God, where we stand before His throne of grace (Heb. 4:16) and are blessed with grace upon grace upon grace (John 1:16).

What is immediately noteworthy at the end of Romans 4 and the beginning of Romans 5 is Paul's change of pronoun to the first person plural, 'we.' ...The apostle identifies himself with all who have been justified by faith, whether Jewish or Gentile, and expresses the solidarity of the people of God, the new community of Messiah Jesus.

—John R. W. Stott

Peace. Greek, *eirene*, from the root, *eiro*, "to join together that which has been separated." It is the state of wholeness, oneness; the security and happiness from a harmonious relationship.

In the Bible, peace means not only freedom from all trouble; it means enjoyment of all good.

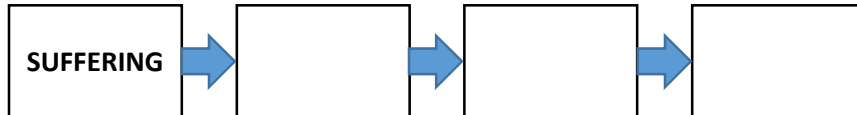
—William Barclay

Access. Greek, *prosagoge*, "a leading or bringing into the presence of," such as an escort into the presence of royalty.

This one word "grace" contains within itself the whole of New Testament theology. —J.I. Packer

3. WE ARE _____ BY HOPE (5:2-5).

- Hope is confident expectation for the future which brings joy to the present. Our hope is in the future glory of God to be fully revealed in us and in all creation (cf. 8:18-23; Isaiah 11:1-10).
- Hope enables us to rejoice even in _____ (Greek, *thlipsis*, “pressure; anything that weighs down the soul”).



- We know our hope will not disappoint (or put us to shame) because we have been assured of the _____ of God.

4. WE ARE _____ WITH GOD’S LOVE (5:5-10).

- God’s love has been _____ on us by the Holy Spirit who was given to us at our salvation (Titus 3:4-7).
- God’s love has been _____ to us through the historical, objective reality of the death of Jesus Christ.

Our Condition:

God’s Solution:

- God’s love will be _____ in us. In Christ, we can be absolutely sure of our future salvation *from* God’s wrath and *to* a life of eternal glory (cf. 8:28-39; Eph. 1:3-14).

5. WE ARE _____ WITH JOY! (5:11)

Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Are you rejoicing in the blessings that you have in Him?

Hope is hearing the melody of the future. Faith is to dance to it.
—Rubem Alves

The fruits of justification relate to the past, present, and future. We have peace with God as a result of our past forgiveness. We are standing in grace as our present privilege. We rejoice in the hope of glory, our future inheritance.
—John Stott

Perseverance. Greek, *hupomone* “to bear up under, endurance.”

Character. Greek, *dokime*, “one who has been tested and has passed the test.”

Hope, like a muscle, will not be strong if it goes unused.
—Douglass Moo

Suffering removes from us rival sources of confidence and hope; other places we might look to for our sense that, deep down, we are OK, and that our future will be OK. Suffering drives us to the one place where we find real hope, real confidence and certainty: God.
—Timothy Keller

Fallen, anxious sinners are limitless in their capacity to perceive reasons for Jesus to cast them out. We are factories of fresh resistances to Christ’s love.
—Dane Ortlund

*Oh love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in Thee
I give Thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow,
May richer, fuller be.*
—George Matheson

Any theology that does not lead to song is at a fundamental level a flawed theology.
—J. I. Packer