



ROMANS

May 11, 2025

THE BLESSINGS FROM JUSTIFICATION

Part 1 Romans 5:1-4

To be justified means “to be declared righteous.” Justification – legal term – describes our perfect standing before God in the righteousness of Christ. As we have already learned from Paul, the only way to be justified is by faith alone, in Christ alone (Romans 4). We cannot earn or achieve a right standing with God. Jesus Christ, thru His death, burial, and resurrection accomplished for us what we could never accomplish ourselves (Romans 3:21-26).

Our justification is not simply a guarantee of heaven, it is also the source of tremendous blessings that we enjoy here and now. In the first eleven verses of Romans 5, Paul lists seven blessings that believers enjoy having been justified (saved)! These blessings remind us of the wonder of our salvation and at the same time assure us that we cannot lose our salvation.

Having placed your faith in Jesus Christ, we are assured we have...

1. Peace with God (verse 1)

The peace that Paul is speaking about is not subjective but objective. Not an inner tranquility but primarily no longer being subject to God’s wrath because of sin. It is not a feeling but a fact.

Romans 5:10 says we “were enemies” of God. That means in our sinful condition, before salvation, we were at enmity with God, spiritually at war with Him. “Through his trust in Jesus Christ, a sinner’s war with God is ended for all eternity.” (John MacArthur)

2. Privilege of access (verse 2a)

The word used for “obtained our introduction” is “prosagōgē.” It means access, introduction. Literally to be ushered into the court of a king and then announced. Prosagōgē (introduction) is used only three times in the New Testament, and in each instance it is used of the believer’s access to God through Jesus Christ (see also Ephesians 2:18; 3:12).¹

In Christ, we have a perfect standing before God and can enter into His presence (Hebrews 10:19–25).



3. Promise of hope (verse 2b)

In Ephesians 2:12, Paul says without Christ we had “no hope and (were) without God in the world.” As Warren Wiersbe has said,

“Peace with God” takes care of the past: He will no longer hold our sins against us. “Access to God” takes care of the present: we can come to Him at any time for the help we need. “Hope of the glory of God” takes care of the future: one day we shall share in His glory! ²

Remember, hope for the believer is not a wish, but a confident expectation based on the character and promises of God.

4. Purpose in life's suffering (verses 3-4)

To be justified does not mean we escape the trials of life. Jesus reminded us that “in this world you will have tribulation” (John 16:33). In Romans 8:35-39 we will see that suffering cannot separate us from the Lord. The word “exult” used in Romans 5:3 means to live with joyful confidence. The word can also be translated “to boast.” However, this boasting is not in us it is boasting in God. We have confidence in God and His love for us. Therefore, whatever suffering we endure, we are confident God will use it for our good and His glory.

“Our English word “tribulation” comes from a Latin word tribulum. In Paul’s day, a tribulum was a heavy piece of timber with spikes in it, used for threshing the grain. The tribulum was drawn over the grain and it separated the wheat from the chaff. As we go through tribulations, and depend on God’s grace, the trials only purify us and help to get rid of the chaff.” ³

There is a hymn entitled “Count Your Blessings.” The chorus of the hymn says it very well:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 527). Victor Books.

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible exposition commentary (Vol. 1, p. 527). Victor Books.