

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.

Last week we learned that once a person places faith in Jesus Christ, you have...

- 1. Peace with God (verse 1)
- 2. Privilege of access (verse 2a)
- 3. Promise of hope (verse 2b)
- 4. Purpose in life's suffering (verses 3-4)

1 John 3:1 (NASB95) See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

As we continue to learn of our blessings from justification, we are assured we have the...

5. Presence of God's love within us (verses 5-8)

Hath been shed abroad ($\dot{\epsilon}\kappa\kappa\epsilon\chi$ utal [ekkechutai]). Perfect passive indicative of $\dot{\epsilon}\kappa\chi\epsilon\omega$ [ekcheo], to pour out. "Has been poured out" in our hearts.



6. Proof of God's love (verses 9-10)

Isaiah 53:4-6, Galatians 3:13, 2 Corinthians 5:21

"Saved from the wrath of God"

7. Power of God's love: Reconciliation (verse 11)

"Through whom we have now received our reconciliation"

Where reconciliation is mentioned in the New Testament, God or Christ is always the reconciler, and human beings are the object (or among the objects) of His reconciling act. God "through Christ" reconciled us to Himself; men and women are accordingly summoned in Christ's name to "be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:18, 20).

Take away: How should we respond to such blessings from God?

- To the non-Christian, **believe!**
- To the Christian, respond with...
 - Gratitude (Hebrews 12:28–29)
 - Humility (James 4:6-10)
 - Obedience (1 John 5:3)
 - Love, love God, love others (Matthew 22:37-39)