

Resurrection. Justification. Celebration.
Romans 4:23-5:11

We continue our study of Romans today. **Every week is Easter here at IDC!**

- We talk about the cross and **resurrection** every week!
- I watched from an **ICU room last week**, as my dad was in bad shape (he's home now) and was very blessed, especially in **hearing the testimonies of those baptized**.
- **An ICU room is a great place to be reminded of the resurrection!**
- **One day all who are in Christ will be raised gloriously, triumphantly, to walk in the newness of life – in a new creation!** Our text today is about such good news.

One thing that became apparent to me was that I'm not up on **medical jargon**.

Fortunately, we could watch **videos** in the room to understand expressions like "He's still in Afib" and others.

You know every group or tribe has their own lingo.

- **Business:** *due diligence, sweat equity*
- **Police:** "Code 5," 187
- **Military:** A bunch of acronyms!
- **Politics:** *POTUS, SCOTUS, filibuster*
- **Baseball:** *balk, duck snort, bullpen, beanball, cheese, Dinger, tater, frozen rope*
- **Teenagers:** Huff Post recently had an article helping parents decode modern terms: **PAP** (Post a picture), **IDEK** (I don't even know), **BAE** (Before anyone else), **Dime** (a Ten on a scale of 1-10); **Netflix and Chill** (not something innocent: it means "hooking up"), **TOPE** (a blend of "totally" and "dope" – and dope means "seriously great")

Language serves to **convey information**; and specific jargon **creates community** among particular groups.

Here in **Romans**, Paul is **using the grammar of the gospel to convey the best news in the world, and to unite this diverse church**.

- We learn about **justification, condemnation, propitiation, reconciliation**, and more words that end in **ation** (not PlayStation!).
- **Concepts like resurrection, grace, the love of God, substitution, the work of the Holy Spirit, faith, sin, judgment, hope, repentance, and more, transform our lives, shape our worldview, and build community.**

In **Romans 5:1-11** we see a whole slew of gospel terms (just scan the page). In some ways this is a **summary** of where we've been, and a **preview** of what's to come.

If you're an outsider, these words may seem **strange or unclear**.

- If so, it's our privilege to walk with you through the book of Romans in general, and this particular passage in particular.
- Not just so you can learn the lingo, but so you can know the Lord Jesus.

Specifically, **Romans 5:1-11** teaches us about the **blessings of being justified by faith alone**; that is, the blessing of being “**declared righteous**” (5:1, CSB).

Having stated **the need** to be justified by faith (1:18-3:20) and having stated **the way of justification** (3:21-4ff), he now revels in **the benefits of it** (5:1-11).

Paul's style shifts from **argumentation** to **adoration**.

- Notice the repetition of "**rejoice**" (ESV) or "**boast**" (NIV) or "**exult**" (NASB). **VV 2b, 3, 11**
- The overall tone of the text is **celebratory, triumphant, jubilant**.
- **Luther: “In the whole Bible there is a hardly a another chapter which can equal this triumphant text.”**
- If we may adjust “**Kool and the Gang’s**” lyrics, “**Celebrate good news, c’mon!**”

It climaxes in verse 11 – we exult in God himself, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus.

In other words, Paul is **helping us to enjoy God**.

There’s a difference in saying, “I’m a Christian” and actually “enjoying God.”

- It’s one thing to be legally **married**, it’s another to enjoy a great meal together, to laugh, laugh, play, enjoy each other’s company...
- It’s one thing to have **children**, but it’s another to have them greet you at the door, or see them opening birthday gifts, or have them text you something sweet....

Romans 5 is a wonderful gift for rekindling your enjoyment of God.

Do you love Him? Do you exult in Him? Do you adore him?

Paul is radiating a contagious Christian joy and excitement because of what God has done for us in Christ. And we should join him in this gospel celebration.

6 Results/Blessings/Consequences of Justification by Faith

#1: We have peace with God (4:23-5:1)

“Therefore”

- Romans based on four "therefores": (1) *condemnation* (Rom 3:20, NIV), (2) *justification* (5:1), (3) *no condemnation* (8:1), and *dedication/transformation* (12:1).

Paul is **recapping** what has already been said.

4:23-25: Our justification is rooted in the cross and resurrection of Jesus.

- **These events are central in human history, and they have abiding significance.**
- Those who **believe** in the work of Christ are “**counted righteous.**” (**justification**)
- Being counted righteous leads to the **celebration**.

“peace with God” – the first benefit of many is *peace*.

- *justification* brings **shalom**.

- You can say, **“It is well with my soul...”**
- You can have the peace **of God** *if* you have peace **with** God.
- The idea here is that of **reconciliation** with God, which reoccurs later in our text.
- Before becoming Christians, we were enemies of God. There was hostility.
- But Christ has killed the hostility by being crushed in our place.

People love **the idea of peace**, but this is not some **therapeutic form of peace...**

“Oh, you do Christianity, I do Yoga," "I do meditation," "I walk beside creeks"; "I do bourbon"; "I eat Kale and bird seed," "I go to baseball games.”

- Certain experiences can give one a sense of peace; but the ultimate peace is **not found in the gifts of creation, but in the Creator Himself.**

Christian peace is rooted in something **objective**, the cross/resurrection of Jesus.

A lot of people have a **false peace with God.**

- They allow feelings to trump biblical truth...
 - **"I'm good with God because my grandma prays for me" What?!**
 - You may say, **"I feel good" - but the doctor is saying, "You have a terminal illness."**

It's impossible to know the peace **of God** if you don't have peace **with** God.

- Paul is speaking of an **objective peace that comes from our being counted righteous.**
- Jesus is the **fulfillment of the promised peace that would come through the Davidic King** - Isaiah 9:6-7; Ezek 34:23-31; 37:24-28; Mic 5:4-5).
- **Jesus Christ has won the war, abolished the hostility, and brought us everlasting peace.**

How is this peace received? **"Through Jesus Christ"** (see 5:21; 6:23)

- not by **earning**, but **receiving**. **By trusting, confessing Christ as Lord.**
- Do you have this peace?
- **My dad's condition** – regardless of what happened, we knew that he had peace with God because about six years ago, the Lord saved him. He stood up and said, "Jesus Christ is the Son of God"

Some of you should have experiential peace but aren't enjoying it.

- You must fight Satan with the word of God.

#2: We are standing in grace (5:2a)

Grace here refers to **ongoing favor with God that comes because of our new relationship with God. We exist in this realm of grace and power.**

- **We never put grace behind us. We stand in it. We live in it.**
- It changes our **status** and our approach to God.
- **We have God as Father, Jesus as our Elder brother, and the Holy Spirit as our divine comforter - we live in grace.**
- We don't just have periodic access to the King; **we live in the palace as the King's kids!**

- Keller: “The only person who dares wake up a king at 3:00 AM for a glass of water is a child [of the King]. We have that kind of access.”
- It’s one thing to be right with God the Judge; but quite another privilege to know God has Father.
- JI Packer: “What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father.”

On one level, there's **nothing more sad** than seeing someone grow up **without a dad**.

- **What’s even sadder is to see someone grow up without knowing God as Father....**
- **Becoming a Xian involves entering a world of the Father's grace.**
- **We have access; we can come to Him anytime. He hears us. He loves us.**
- **“Your sins are forgiven.” “I give you life in the present.” “I guarantee your future.”**
- **Everyday, He says, “My child, remember whose you are.”**
- **Your heart’s greatest desire is to know and experience this grace.**

It’s all grace know the Father, through the work of Jesus, and to have the comfort of the Spirit assuring you of this identity.

#3: We rejoice in our hope (5:2b-4)

See "hope" in 2b and the end of verse 4... and the repetition of "rejoice"

There’s an **undeserved** hope and an **unexpected** hope here.

A. Undeserved Hope: the Glory of God (2b)

- **Hope**, in the NT, is **not wishful thinking**, like “**I hope the Lions win the Superbowl.**”
- Our future hope is **assured**.
- It’s tied to what’s already happened – **Romans 8:30**. Those whom he has justified he has glorified.
- **We who scorned his glory (Rom 1:21-23) now share in God's glory!**
- **What was lost in Adam will be restored – and an even greater glory than Adam will be experienced.**

What does this future glory involve?

- **Moral perfection** (conformity to Christ) - We will see him and be like him (1 Jn 3:2)
- **Total Peace/Shalom**
- **Thrilling Beauty**
- What Jonathan Edwards called heaven, **"a world of love"**

Christ prayed that his followers would see his glory! (Jn 17:24)

- He wants us to see glory and deliver us from this body of death.

This hope is actually inside of the Christian already.

- **Col 1:29** - "Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- The Christian may look unimpressive **externally**.
- Like **Cameron Indoor Stadium** - unimpressive on the outside, but inside there’s glory.

This hope energizes our lives.

- A new job can give one a sense of excitement about the future...
- Scheduling a trip w/ my wife once a quarter... you can endure because a time away is coming...
- Nothing is greater than this hope... This hope should energize us!
- It's easy to lose sight of the end when you're in the midst of suffering.
 - In '96, LSU won the College World Series. One of the players decided to get a bottle full of the dirt at home plate. The next season he took it with him to every game. When times got difficult, he'd whip out that bottle and say, "**Guys, Get a whiff of Rosenblatt Stadium. That's where we are going.**"

My friends, we need to get a whiff of glory everyday as we open God's divine Word.

That's where we're going... Suffering now, glory later...

All of it possible because of the resurrection; all sufferings eventually overcome because of resurrection.

Carson: "I'm not suffering from anything that a good resurrection can't fix."

B. Unexpected Hope: In the midst of our Sufferings (4-5)

"Sufferings" here refers to all the difficulties of this fallen world.

How many of you have one difficulty?

How many of you are sitting next to your difficulty? Lol!

- I was working on this text while being in the Delta debacle last week; I needed it!
- Romans 8:35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Then he lists a number of "sufferings"]: Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
- Paul is not a sick masochist.
- He's not saying we should enjoy pain.
- He's saying we can rejoice in the midst of it...

2 Reasons: (1) **it is the path to glory in the future**, (2) **it leads to maturity in the present.**

Suffering is the path to glory.

Rom 8:16-17 parallels this verse and Rom 5:5: "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him."

- Suffering now, glory later; cross now, resurrection later.
- If you don't understand this, you will not understand Christianity, and you will get mad at God.
- Suffering is normal. "Don't be surprised by it" James says.
- Paul was saying, "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22)

Sufferings leads to maturity. Notice three truths that you need to know in verses 3-4:

#1: God's priority is not to take away all of your problems; it's to make you like Jesus.

- Not: "Once I came to Jesus, all my problems were solved."

- **But:** "These afflictions are making me more like Jesus."
- Look at Paul! Christian example, filled with suffering.
- And *suffering keeps us from getting too settled down in this world*. It refines us.

#2: God's purposes can be trusted.

- There's not one cut of the Vinedressers pruning knife that is useless.

#3: God's pattern can be anticipated: Suffering – Endurance – Character – Hope

Suffering is formative for your growth

- "No that guy is not ready; He needs to suffer."
- Suffering is a great seminary.
- Luther said that there were three things necessary for understanding Scripture: **Prayer**, **Meditation**, and **Suffering**. (cf., Ps 119:71)

Perseverance – "to remain under"

- Suffering helps us endure under pressure and hardship.
- Like a muscle, suffering makes us stronger and able to endure the next trial.

Character – *Dokime* has the sense of a character that has been **tested**/found approved.

- Persevering in suffering makes you a person of **tested character - badly needed to day!**
- **Phil 2:22** - Timothy of person of "proven character." He had been through the ringer.
- **I fear that today's culture is not producing tough people, but a generation of self-absorbed narcissists who feel entitled to everything. And everyone gets a medal.**
- Images of Christian disciple in **2 Tim 2: Farmer, soldier, athlete**. Images of hardship, discipline, suffering.

The Surprise: Hope

How does suffering produce hope?

- Simple.
- **Enduring in faith reassures you that you really do belong to Jesus.**
- **It assures you that your faith is real.**
- Suffering produces character that proves the **authenticity of one's faith**. (cf., **Mark 4:17**)
- When enduring w/ faith, You say, "**God has really saved me!**"

Transition (5): Our hope **doesn't disappoint**. It's a confident.

Notice: **verse 5** - "because"

#4: We know a love like no other (5:5-8)

Paul goes to tell us that the Holy Spirit - the one who enables us to endure suffering with faith and faithfulness -- assures of God's love on an **experiential level**.

Then in verses 6-8 he says that the cross of Jesus assure us of God's love on a historical, **objective level**.

In all three verses, we should note the Trinitarian love of God.

Heaven is “a world of Love” because “God is love.”

Proof 1: The Holy Spirit floods our heart with God's love (5)

This is a dynamic experience.

When a person puts faith in Jesus, the Spirit of God comes to dwell inside of them.

- The Spirit is a gift.
- Here we see that He is the gift of love.
- God's love for us has been poured like a downpour into our hearts, and we then pour forth love for others.
- We who have received love from God, now have great love for God and for others –
- Romans 8:16: “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”
- John Owen: "We are never nearer Christ than when we find ourselves lost in a holy amazement at His unspeakable love." The Spirit creates this.

Proof 2: The Cross of Christ demonstrates God's love (6-8)

God’s love **doesn’t float free from a historical anchor**; it’s tied to Christ’s cross.

Some see Paul as the *arguing* writer, while John is the writer of *love*.

- But **Paul gets a bad rap**; we find him speaking of God's love regularly.
- Moo: **75 of the 116 times the word “love” is used, it's used by Paul.**
- Here, having stated that the cross of Jesus is indeed a display of God's **justice** and righteousness, he now declares that divine **love** was also displayed at the cross.
- **God is not distant or remote, but full of love and personally involved!!!**

A. The greatness of God’s love is displayed in the cost of it. (8)

- **Stott, “We need to remember that the essence of loving is giving.”**
‘God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son....’ ‘The Son of God ... loved me and gave himself for me.’
- **You can give without loving; but you can't love without giving.**
- If you say you love someone but don't make sacrifice; don't give; you're playing games.
- If you say you love the church and the mission but don't give, then you don't really love it.
- John tells us love in **deed** and **truth** not just talk.
- Love acts.
 - **Not sentimentalism** – hallmark
 - **Not lust**
 - **Not everything** – a donut
 - Love is “**compassion that leads to action**” - 1 Jn 3:16

Jesus demonstrated his love – he acted.

B. The greatness of God's love is displayed in our unworthiness of it (6-8)

- i. **We were "unable to save ourselves" (6a).**

- “**weak**” “helpless”
- “at just the right time” - God's perfect Timing Perfect: (1) according to God's purposes (cf., Gal 4:4); (2) While we were sinners

ii. **We were "ungodly" (6b)**

- verse 9-10 adds that we were "enemies."

iii. **We were "unrighteousness" (7-8)**

- **This love is rare**
- “Good person maybe” – take a bullet for **Nelson Mandela, but not Hitler...**
- **Mother lying over her child in Syria**
- **Kimberly, "I will lay down my life for you."** (1) I didn't, (2) she wasn't my enemy....
- Christ for his **enemies**; people who don't deserve it.
- The thief on the **cross was not a good man.**
Spurgeon said, “**This dying thief was our Lord’s last companion on earth and his first companion through the gate of paradise.... and “Jesus said to all of heaven, “I bring a sinner with me; he is a sample of all the rest.”**”

#5: **We have assurance of final salvation (5:9-10)**

Paul declares that we are saved—**now and forever.**

Here, salvation has both a “now” and a “not yet” aspect

We are awaiting coming glory; new bodies; ultimate deliverance; total shalom.

A. **Negatively: Believers have no fear of future wrath (9)**

- Christ has taken our place, and we don't have to fear the judgment.

B. **Positively: Believers are reconciled to God now and forever (10)**

- “**by his life**” is a reference to Christ’s resurrection and his ongoing intercession.
- It is through his resurrected life that we are saved today, tomorrow, and forever.
- Not only did he come back to life after being our sacrifice; he came back to life in order to be our high priest.
- We aren't just celebrating the astonishing that He came back to life (“**Oh wow that’s cool!**”) but that he lives and reigns forever! He will never die!
- We are saved by the Living Lord of glory.
- **He's alive forever and we who are in him will also live forever.**
- We share life now; we will share life through the resurrection later...

C. **Logically (9-10)**

- How do we know this for sure?
- Look at Paul's simple logic: “**much more**” (9 and 10).
- **From present to the future, from difficult to easy.**
- If God has already done the difficult thing (justifying us through the blood of Jesus and reconcile us to Himself while we were enemies), can we not trust him to do the comparatively simple thing of completing the task?

- He has justified us through the blood of Jesus, will he not save his justified people from wrath? **Of course!**
- He has reconciled us to himself while we were enemies, will he not complete this work for those who are now his friends/family? **Of course!**

#6: We exult in God Himself (5:11)

Schreiner: "The capstone of the believer's experience is boasting and exulting in God himself."

- We don't look to God as a means to getting out of hell.
- **We don't just see God as useful – we see Him as beautiful.**
- One of the signs of regeneration **is the simple fact that you love God.**
- You are awakened to the beauty of God.
- You boast in God, the One who has reconciled you to Himself through Jesus.
- This is the end for which we were created: "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

Have there been intentional moments of rejoicing in God this week?

Recap: Being declared righteous by faith in Christ means...

- Having peace with God.
- Standing in grace.
- Rejoicing in hope.
- Knowing a love like no other.
- Being assured of final salvation.
- Exulting in God himself, who is our treasure.

Unbeliever: Do you really want to turn your back on this grace?

Believer: Marvel at this grace. Marvel at the Father's love.

Sweeter words and more satisfying news do not exist.

And to think that we are but scratching the surface of the bottomless depth of the gospel!

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

