

## RIGHT THIS WAY

### "SOMETHING TO GET EXCITED ABOUT"

#### ROMANS 5:1-11

### This Week's Core Competency

**Salvation by Grace** – I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by his grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

"If it seems too good to be true, it probably is." Generally, this is a good rule of thumb that anyone can apply to any situation when the pros far outweigh the cons. From childhood this was ingrained into my mind; nonetheless, over the course of my life, I have still been suckered into many bad deals that looked good on the surface. Often, I discovered, the hard way, that the product, service, concept, or dream being offered was simply not as good as it appeared on the surface. I am not alone. Most people have also experienced the same disappointment which has resulted in a general distrust of anyone who is selling something, and also distrust of those who are trying to persuade others of an idea. Politicians, teachers, salesmen, and even pastors are often distrusted simply because we have learned, time and again, that just because someone says something is good, does not mean that it is.

This was the mindset that Paul was arguing against in the fifth chapter of Romans. In chapter 4, Paul had proven that justification was not according to the law, or any other act for that matter, but it was only by faith. He had given several proofs of this and at this point the Romans would have been thinking, "Ok, so justification is by faith...just faith?! That seems a little too good to be true." No doubt, it had crossed their minds that a declaration of righteousness based on faith alone seemed too easy. (Frankly, that's the point. When someone else has done all the work, naturally it will be easy for everyone else, right?) Paul

anticipates their distrust and begins to set forth in chapter 5 the results or benefits of a justification that is by faith.

None of us receives a written certificate from God stating that we have been justified. We do not hear a proclamation from heaven that tells us that we have been made right with God. Nonetheless, at the moment we believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and that his redemptive work has saved us, we are justified. However, few people ever "feel" different at that moment of justification. What assurance do we have that our faith has saved us? Enter chapter 5. The purpose of this section was to help the Roman church understand that if the results were apparent, then the unseen cause of those results could be trusted.

I was speaking with a stranger in a park one time. We had struck up a conversation about spiritual things, and I asked him if he knew where he would spend eternity. "Well," he replied, "I really don't know. Hopefully, I have been good enough to make it to heaven, but we'll have to see." Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon response. As a matter of fact, most of the people I have shared the gospel with over my life have responded in a similar fashion. But what is even more saddening is that many Christians hold to this belief as well.

Paul lays out the benefits that result from the justification that God freely gives to those who have faith in Christ's redemptive work on the cross. He does this to bring assurance and confidence to his readers so that their doubts about whether or not God would honor their faith in Christ and bring them salvation would be put to rest.

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# day 1

**ENCOUNTER** – read God’s word to put yourself in touch with him.

## Romans 5:1–11

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Put what Paul is talking about in your own words.

What does he say about what he’s talking about?

**EXAMINE** – what the passage says before you decide what it means.

- \* Bracket "have been justified" in v. 1.
- \* Bracket "peace with God" in v. 1.
- \* Bracket "glory in our suffering" in v. 3.
- \* Circle "character" in v. 4.
- \* Bracket "put us to shame" in v. 5.
- \* Circle "right time" in v. 6.

- \* Circle "righteous" and "good" in v. 7.
- \* Circle "sinners" in v. 8.
- \* Bracket "shall we be saved" in v. 9.
- \* Circle "enemies" in v. 10.
- \* Circle "reconciliation" in v. 11.

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## day 2

**EXPLORE** – the answer to these questions to better understand what the passage means.

Consult the explanation of the message and the notes to follow if you need help.

1. Summarize, in a couple sentences, the main argument of chapter 4.
2. What is the connection between chapters 4 and 5?
3. Does man play any role in making peace with God? Explain your answer.
4. How would you define character?
5. How are perseverance, character and hope related to suffering? Why are these the products of rejoicing in suffering?
6. Put verse Romans 5:8 in your words, trying not to use words from the passage.
7. Identify the acts of love in this passage.
8. In verses 9 and 10, Paul interchanges "justify" and "reconciled." Are these the same thing? Why or why not?
9. It seems as though Paul claims that "we shall be saved..." after justification. In what sense does this salvation take place after justification?

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## day 3 **EXAMINE** – an explanation of the message to better understand the meaning of the passage.

The benefits that Paul is about to list in this section are the life-changing blessings that resulted from justification. The list includes the following: peace, access, joy, the Holy Spirit, deliverance, and reconciliation. Let's dive into these items more fully.

Paul begins with a conclusion linked to the previous chapter. In chapter 4, Paul thoroughly explained and proved that justification (being made righteous before God) was not by keeping the law nor by good works, rather it was by faith. Though Paul has already stated this, he qualifies the justification in this first verse: "...having been justified..." The construction is significant because "the tense here certainly indicates an act of God in the past" (James D. G. Dunn, *Word Biblical Commentary*, vol. 38a, *Romans 1-8*, 246). This is important because it points to a moment in the past when justification took place, and not to a moment in the present, or the future when it will take place if one has already professed faith in Christ.

Paul continues to express the first benefit: peace with God. "Some of the important Greek manuscripts read, 'Let us have peace (echomen) with God.' This seems to be the preferred reading. If so, then the sense is, 'Let us keep on having (in the sense of enjoying) peace with God.'" (John A. Witmer, "Romans," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament*, 456). The idea here is that God is the one who has made peace with us; once we have been justified by Him, we simply begin enjoying that peace with Him.

If I were to tell you I have the Queen of England on the phone for you, what would you say? No doubt you would feel honored and overwhelmed. We simply do not have access very often to people like that. Access to God, the second benefit, is far more valuable and cannot be overestimated, and yet we take this for granted all too often. In the Old Testament, the people of God had no access to Him except through a high priest. With Christ's death, the veil of the Holy of Holies in the temple was torn (where the high priest alone entered to meet on behalf of the people) and access to God was made possible through Jesus. The position of grace that we now have, which Paul speaks of in verse 2, is the position of standing before God and

being declared not guilty. It is only by grace, and because of Jesus' actions, that we are in this position. Now that we are in this position, we have access to the almighty King and Creator of the universe. This privilege cannot be overvalued. And because we have that access and privilege, we proclaim God's glory and we hope for the day to experience it more fully.

The third benefit, joy, that Paul discusses is particularly special, because it comes with added blessings. Rejoice is an imperative, which is to say it is a command. Thus we are exhorted to have joy, or rejoice in suffering. The reason that Paul exhorts us to rejoice is because when we rejoice, even in our suffering, God works in each of us in a special way. Often, the reason that we suffer during trials and tribulations is because we have no hope, or we lose hope. Paul explains that choosing to rejoice in the midst of suffering is what God asks of us. He then begins a work in us which will produce perseverance to endure the suffering, character to better handle the situation, and finally hope. God graciously uses our suffering and trials for our betterment. "The reason this hope (resulting finally from affliction) does not disappoint is that God has poured out His love into our hearts" (Witmer, 456). This is to say that "God loves us and enables us to withstand tribulations" (Constable, *Ro 5:5*). He enables us through His Spirit, the fourth benefit, which he pours into each person at the moment of justification. Thus, the Spirit of God produces hope in the midst of suffering and at the same time reassures us that we are loved by God and that He is working in and through us.

How does this indwelling of the Spirit come to a fallen human being? Herein lies the heartbeat of this passage. Paul unfolds the essence of the Gospel in these three verses. The thought-provoking statement in verse 7 only drives home Paul's professions stated both in verse 6 and 8. God demonstrates his love for us in that while we were still offensive to God, he sent Jesus to die for us. If God loved us so much to do that then, how much more will he do for us now that He has justified us?

Given that Christ has died for us, justification is possible for all who believe. And through it, they will be delivered from the wrath of God. This is

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the fifth benefit! "The first premise is that we have now been declared righteous by virtue of the shedding of Christ's blood. Since that is true, it is far more certain that we will be saved from wrath by him" (Robert H. Mounce, *Romans*, NAC, 137).

Deliverance from His wrath and from enmity with God results in a reconciliation with God in both the present and future. This sixth and final

benefit speaks to the relationship that all believers can enjoy with the Father, because of the work of Christ. Since "Christians, God's reconciled ones, share in Christ's life, they will be saved. Not only is future salvation assured, but we also rejoice in God here and now" (Witmer, 457).

## day **4** **EMBRACE** – how God spoke to you in his word.

### *The Message of the Passage*

*We can be sure we are saved, because at the moment God declares us righteous, we have peace with him, access to him, joy in trials, the gift of the Spirit, deliverance from wrath, and a deep relationship with him.*

Our desire is to not be merely hearers of the word, but doers of the word as James teaches in James 1:22. Reflect on 3 *living questions* to apply what you have learned this week.

- **Journal your answers to the following *living* questions:**

–How is God making himself known to you?

–How does God want to change you?

–How is God calling you to change your world?

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## notes STUDY – the commentaries to answer the questions.

v. 1 **have been justified** The distinction should be made here that this does not state that we are being justified as it would if it were a present participle. Instead the past participle is used. "What is the difference? The answer is, 'being declared righteous' looks to a state you are in; 'having been declared righteous' looks back to a fact that happened. 'Being in a justified state' of course is incorrect, confusing, as it does, justification and sanctification" (Constable, on v. 1).

v. 1 **peace with God** "To have 'peace with God' means to be in a relationship with God in which all the hostility caused by sin has been removed. It is to exist no longer under the wrath of God" (Mounce, 133). That said, other commentators argue that this goes further. Paul is not just talking about the absence of hostility, but that instead a sweet harmony has taken its place; we now experience a rich fellowship with God. "Our English word 'peace,' in keeping with the secular Greek use of *eirene*, often has a negative sense: the absence of hostility. But the Old Testament and Jewish conception of peace, *shalom*, was much more positive, connoting a general sense of harmonious well-being. See Isaiah 32:17-18 (NIVSet) The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest" (Douglas J. Moo, *The NIV Application Commentary: Romans*, on 5:1).

v. 3 **glory in our suffering** Many would have seen suffering and persecution as something that was happening as a "side effect" of following God. In their minds it would have been an unfortunate consequence of being a Christian. Paul explains this is the opposite. "The whole process produces hope because it indicates that the process of salvation is under way: when suffering is experienced not as a contradiction to faith or occasion to renounce God, but as a strengthening of patience and maturing of character, it stimulates hope in the grace that is having such effect" (Dunn, 265).

v. 4 **character** Being able to withstand a test. Perhaps the better translation is "proven character."

v. 5 **put us to shame** The better translation is "this hope will not be put to shame" or "this hope will not disappoint." The idea is previously stated is that we can be grateful because we know God is at work. But also we can be grateful because from beginning to end (and even before the beginning) God pours out his love on us. "Hope never disappoints (v. 5). It does not let the believer down. The reason is simple. God floods our hearts with his love through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Hope is rewarded with a fresh awareness of the incomprehensible love of God" (Mounce, 135).

v. 6 **right time** This phrase has a double meaning. Paul also refers to the fullness of time in Galatians 4:4. In both senses, he is referring to the fact that the coming of Christ was at the perfect moment in the timeline of history. Scholars believe this is primarily for three reasons: first, there was relative peace because the Romans ruled the known world; *pax Romana*. Secondly, there was one primary language spoken throughout the known world. Finally, the Romans had developed an excellent road system that made it possible for people (and thereby the Gospel) to be spread like wildfire throughout the known world. However, Paul was not merely speaking of this timing, but also of the fact that Jesus came at the time when we were in the most desperate need. "Not only was it the right time in terms of the sweep of history but it was the right time in the sense that we were powerless to break the chains of sin. We were unable to help ourselves. Bound by sin and destined for an eternity apart from God, no amount of struggle could free us from condemnation. It was for us 'the right time' for Christ's atoning death" (Mounce, 136).

vv. 6-10 **righteous, good, sinners, enemies** In verses 6-10, Paul contrasts the concept of good and bad people. He explains that there is a chance that someone out there would be willing to give their life for a good man. "But" is employed to draw a stark contrast to the fact that this is not the case here. "People are not only helpless to save themselves (v. 6), neglectful of God (v. 6), and wicked (v. 8), but they also set themselves against God and His purposes. Even though many unsaved people profess to love God, God who knows their hearts sees opposition to Himself in them. Their antagonism toward Him is the proof of it" (Constable, on v. 10).

v. 9 **shall we be saved** Justification is the moment in which we are declared righteous before God. Here Paul is talking about another aspect of salvation, namely a salvation from the wrath of God now and in the future because of the justification which we experienced earlier.

v. 11 **reconciliation** "There are two aspects of reconciliation: one for all mankind (2 Cor. 5:19), and another for the believer (2 Cor. 5:20). Jesus Christ's death put mankind in a savable condition, but people still need to experience full reconciliation with God by believing in His Son" (Constable, on v. 10).

## Family Talk

### Encouragement from one parent's heart to another

What beautiful encouragement we have in our text this week! Because of Jesus' work on the cross, we have right standing with God. Not only does that give us peace with God but great hope and the ability to rejoice in our sufferings. As I write this morning, another local school is on lockdown. A suspicious person is threatening the safety of kids on campus. Thankfully, the situation is being resolved peacefully but the fact remains, we live in a broken world. It is bad enough turning on the TV and talking through current events with an 18 year old. Many of you are doing so with much younger children. The Bible is clear; we will endure suffering. However, suffering is purposeful in starting a chain reaction in us that leads to hope and experiencing the love of God. Difficult experiences lead us to persevere in single-mindedness. They cause us to focus and re-align our priorities. This perseverance produces character. When we are tested we develop confidence through the experience. This confidence enables us to stand strong in future difficulties. Ultimately we develop a stronger assurance in God's love and plan for us. We develop hope. These are valuable truths to teach to our kids. While we are able to shield them for now they will one day be facing suffering on their own. Praise the Lord He is faithful to a thousand generations!

### What Does The Bible Say

Weekly Verse: Read Ro 5:1-11

1. What blessings have we gained by being justified through faith?
2. How did God demonstrate His love for us?
3. What reason do we have for rejoicing? (v. 11)

### What Do You Think

Think about a time you faced something difficult. Was it easy to rejoice in it? According to verses 3-5, how can we face hard times?

### What R U Going To Do

You may not be going through a hard time right now, but someone you know may be. Do something kind for that person. Write a note. Draw a picture. Bake cookies. Say "I love you!"

### Core Comp

Salvation by Grace - I believe that I become a child of God through faith in Jesus, not because of anything I do.

### Memory Verse

Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

## KIDPIX COUPON

I memorized my verse \_\_\_\_\_, completed Scrolls \_\_\_\_\_, brought Bible \_\_\_\_\_, brought a friend \_\_\_\_\_.

Series Discipleship Challenge located in KidPix Store.

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Earn 1 token by completing the PantegoKids Bible study and another token by reciting the memory verse.

Questions: Kids@pantego.org

# 30 CORE COMPETENCIES

## 10 CORE BELIEFS

### **Trinity** 2 Corinthians 13:14

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **Salvation By Grace** Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

### **Authority of the Bible** 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

### **Personal God** Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

### **Identity in Christ** John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

### **Church** Ephesians 4:15-16

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

### **Humanity** John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

### **Compassion** Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

### **Eternity** John 14:1-4

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

### **Stewardship** 1 Timothy 6:17-19

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

## 10 CORE PRACTICES

### **Worship** Psalm 95:1-7

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

### **Prayer** Psalm 66:16-20

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

### **Bible Study** Hebrews 4:12

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

### **Single-mindedness** Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

### **Spiritual Gifts** Romans 12:4-6

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

### **Biblical Community** Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, others' lives, and in the world.

### **Giving Away My Time** Colossians 3:17

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving Away My Money**

2 Corinthians 8:7

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving Away My Faith** Ephesians

6:19-20

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

### **Giving Away My Life** Romans 12:1

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

## 10 CORE VIRTUES

### **Joy** John 15:11

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

### **Peace** Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, myself, and others.

### **Faithfulness** Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my long-term loyalty to those relationships.

### **Self-Control** Titus 2:11-13

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

### **Humility** Philippians 2:3, 4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

### **Love** 1 John 4:10-12

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

### **Patience** Proverbs 14:29

I take a long time to overheat and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

### **Kindness/Goodness** 1 Thess. 5:15

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

### **Gentleness** Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

### **Hope** Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

## About the Authors

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**Wendy Hollabaugh** (B.S.W. University of Texas at Arlington) is the Children's Minister at Pantego Bible Church. Wendy has over ten years of experience in Children's Ministry. She has a passion for leading families to connect with God and each other. She enjoys creating compelling environments where kids fall in love with God and His Truth. Wendy and her husband, Greg, are also involved in their own personal youth ministry as they are training their three teenagers, Hannah, Aaron and Noah.

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The mission of THE SCROLLS is to help you Belong, Become, and go Beyond as follower of Jesus Christ through your own active reading of the Bible. Send any questions or comments you may have about this lesson to Tom Bulick. His e-mail address is [tbulick@pantego.org](mailto:tbulick@pantego.org).