

A Summer in Rome: Romans 5 — The Results of Justification

Theme: When we are justified by faith, it produces real, lasting results—peace with God, access to grace, hope that endures, and reconciliation with God Himself.

1. What does it mean to be justified by faith—and what do we now have with God because of it?

Romans 5:1

- To be *justified* means to be declared righteous before God.
- This righteousness is not earned—it is received by faith in Jesus Christ.
- The first result of justification is **peace with God**.
- Sin created separation and enmity between man and God; justification removes that barrier.

Cross-References:

- *Isaiah 53:5* – “The chastisement for our peace was upon Him.”
 - *Colossians 1:21–22* – “You, who once were alienated... He has reconciled.”
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2. What do we now have access to because of our justification—and what two responses should that produce in us?

Romans 5:2

- We have **access by faith into grace**—God’s unearned and undeserved favor.
- This grace is where we now **stand** (our secure foundation) and where we **rejoice** in the hope of God’s glory.

- Justification provides both privilege (access to grace) and posture (rejoicing in hope).

Cross-References:

- *Hebrews 4:16* – “Let us come boldly to the throne of grace.”
 - *Ephesians 2:18* – “We both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”
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3. According to verses 3–4, what are the steps that lead to hope? What does each step mean?

Romans 5:3–4

- Paul gives a clear sequence:
Tribulation → Perseverance → Character → Hope
- Tribulations (trials) produce perseverance (endurance).
- Perseverance shapes our character—who we are under pressure.
- That tested and refined character leads to genuine, confident hope in God.

Cross-References:

- *James 1:2–4* – “The testing of your faith produces patience.”
 - *1 Peter 1:6–7* – Trials test the genuineness of your faith.
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4. Why does Paul say that “hope does not disappoint” in verse 5? What makes this hope different?

Romans 5:5

- Our hope in Christ will not fail or let us down.

- This is not empty optimism—it's grounded in the **love of God poured out in our hearts** through the Holy Spirit.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit assures us of God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

Cross-References:

- *2 Corinthians 1:22* – “He has given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”
 - *Romans 8:16* – “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit...”
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5. How significant is the timing of Christ's death for us, according to verses 6–8?

Romans 5:6–8

- Christ died for us at the exact right time—**when we were without strength, ungodly, and still sinners.**
- This demonstrates the depth of God's love: not when we were righteous, but while we were lost in sin, He gave Himself for us.

Cross-References:

- *Ephesians 2:4–5* – “Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.”
 - *John 15:13* – “Greater love has no one than this...”
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6. In verses 9–10, what are we saved from now that we have been justified?

Romans 5:9–10

- We are saved from **God's wrath**—the righteous judgment we deserved.

- Because we've been justified by Christ's blood, we are also saved **by His life**—His ongoing intercession and resurrection power.
- This gives assurance of future salvation and eternal security.

Cross-References:

- *1 Thessalonians 1:10* – “Jesus... delivers us from the wrath to come.”
- *Romans 8:1* – “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”

7. According to verse 11, what have we received as a result of our justification?

Romans 5:11

- We have received **reconciliation**—a restored relationship with God.
- Justification doesn't just remove guilt; it brings us into communion and friendship with God through Jesus Christ.

Cross-References:

- *2 Corinthians 5:18–19* – “God... has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ.”
- *John 1:12* – “To as many as received Him... He gave the right to become children of God.”

Discussion Questions – Romans 5:1–11

- 1. What does it mean to be justified by faith—and what do we now have with God because of it?**
- 2. What do we now have access to because of our justification—and what two responses should that produce in us?**
- 3. According to verses 3–4, what are the steps that lead to hope? What does each step mean?**
- 4. Why does Paul say that “hope does not disappoint” in verse 5? What makes this hope different?**
- 5. How significant is the timing of Christ’s death for us, according to verses 6–8?**
- 6. According to verses 9–10, what are we saved from now that we have been justified?**
- 7. According to verse 11, what have we received as a result of our justification?**