**Lesson 11: The Blessings of Being Justified By Faith**

Text: Romans 5:1-11

**Introduction**

As we have seen in our study, the theme of the first part of Paul’s letter to the Romans is justification by faith (1:18-4:25). In 4:25, Paul said that Jesus died for our offenses and that He rose again that we might be justified. Chapter 5-8 is a new section that describes the blessings of justification by faith. This shift is noticeable when you compare the key words in each section. Douglas Moo noted that there are 33 occurrences of the words “faith” and “believe” in 1:18-4:25 and only three occurrences in chapters 5-8. Also, various forms of the words “life” and “live” occur only twice in the first section whereas they appear 24 times in chapters 5-8 where Paul applies the truth of justification by faith to daily living. “In chapters 5-8, Paul invites the Christian to join with him in joyful thanksgiving for what the gospel provides – a new life given to God’s service in this life and a certain, glorious hope for the life to come.” (Douglas Moo) Every chapter in Romans 5-8 concludes with a focus on Christ. Thus, every blessing we enjoy is made possible through Him! In this lesson, we will begin to explore some of the blessings that come to us by way of justification by faith.

1. **Being justified by faith produces great blessings in the lives of believers.** 
   1. The first blessing mentioned is that we have peace with God. (v. 1)
      1. We have been declared innocent of the charges that were brought against us. This produces peace.
      2. Peace with God is not just the cessation of the hostility; it also speaks of the healthy relationship that has been established.
      3. It indicates that we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. (v. 1, 11)
   2. The next blessing mentioned by Paul is that we have access to God’s grace to stand. (v. 2a)
      1. Through Christ we have opportunity to approach the Father.
      2. This is not just a one-time pass, but rather continual access to God’s presence.
   3. The blessings also extend to the future. Through Jesus Christ we have hope (assurance) in the glory of God. (v. 2b)
      1. Because God provided righteousness, we will one day dwell in His glorious presence.
      2. This provides hope in this life that cheers us on to our final destination.
   4. Warren Wiersbe summarized these blessings in this way: “Peace with God takes care of the past: He no longer holds 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. **Being justified by faith does not exempt us from the problems on earth. (v. 3-4)**
   1. Paul said that as believers we not only rejoice in the glory of God, but also in our current sufferings. (v. 3a)
   2. The Jews may have been quick to question Paul’s statement that we are enjoying peace with God. They thought peace meant the absence of pain. That is not the case in this life.
   3. Suffering is a part of our earthly existence.
   4. “All evil that the Christian experiences reflects the conflict between this age dominated by Satan and the age to come….All suffering betrays the presence of the enemy and involves attacks on our relationship to Christ. If met with doubt in God’s goodness and promise, or bitterness toward others, or despair and even resignation, these sufferings can bring spiritual defeat to the believer. But if met with the attitude of confidence and rejoicing that Paul encourages here, these sufferings will produce those valuable spiritual qualities that Paul lists in verse 3-4.” (Douglas Moo)
   5. The reason believers can rejoice in current suffering is because it develops Christian character. (v. 3b-4)
      1. Suffering produces patience (endurance; spiritual fortitude).
      2. Patience produces experience (proved, tested character).
      3. Experience produces hope (confidence, assurance).
3. **Being justified by faith sets our hope in God. (v. 5-11)** 
   1. Hope “maketh not ashamed.” It will not leave you disappointed, since your hope is in God.
   2. Hope is found in God’s love. (v. 5)
      1. The love of God has been “shed abroad.” (v. 5a) This means that it has been poured out. The verb indicates that there is a large quantity! The focus here is on God’s love for us.
      2. The Holy Spirit works within us to help us to know and experience God’s love. (v. 5b)
   3. We must only look at what Jesus did for us on the cross to know God’s love. (v. 6-8)
      1. The fact that we were without strength indicates that we were unable to change our own lives. (v. 6)
      2. It is rare that a person would give his life for another human being who even has a good reputation. (v. 7)
      3. It is overwhelming to consider that Jesus died for sinners! (v. 8) He died for His enemies!
   4. Hope will not leave you disappointed, since God will save you from the coming wrath. (v. 9-11)
      1. If Jesus died to reconcile sinners, it stands to reason that He will deliver them from the wrath to come. (v. 9)
      2. Since we have been reconciled by His death, we have the assurance that we will be saved by His life. He is a living Savior! (v. 10)
      3. We ought to rejoice in Jesus because through Him we have the atonement. (v. 11)
      4. “Paul argued from the lesser to the greater. If God saved us when we were enemies, surely He will keep on saving us now that we are His children.” (Wiersbe)
4. **Central Idea: Being justified by faith provides hope because of all we have in Christ.**

**Conclusion**

Consider all you have in Christ! Think of all the blessings since you have been justified by faith! You have peace with God. You have been reconciled. You have grace to help you through the trials of life. The trials of life produce godly character. You have assurance of the life to come. Rest assured of His love regardless of your circumstances. The blessings of being justified by faith far outweigh the struggles we encounter in this life.