

Romans 5:1-11
“Why Didn’t You Tell Me This Earlier?”

~ INTRO ~

AS WE CONTINUE IN (Rom.)...

- Remember this is a message for broken people.
- A call to both sinner & saint...
 - Because God desires to restore lost people.

The Doctrine of Justification:

- 1) *Justified* by faith NOT by works (vv.1-8).
- 2) *Justified* by grace NOT by law (vv.9-17).
- 3) *Justified* by God NOT by human effort (vv.18-25).

ALL GOOD STUFF!

- BUT... many people stop there.
 - Thinking Salvation is ONLY a way...
 - To escape hell & get into heaven...
 - And totally miss the immediate purpose.

IT’S LIKE THE LOTTERY WINNER...

- That never claims the million-dollar prize money...
 - And remains broke!

IN CHAPTER #5...

- Paul reveals how God delivers every part of us:
 - 1) My mind – when I don’t think I’m saved.
 - 2) My emotions – when I don’t feel saved.
 - 3) My will – when I don’t act like I’m saved.

THE BENEFITS OF *justification*...

- Help us... get a right perspective... when we struggle with sin.

IDEA #1 – UNLIMITED ACCESS

(v.1) “Peace with God”

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- This is our *standing* in Christ.

(2 Cor. 5:17) NLT

“... anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (Justified)

BUT... WE DON’T ALWAYS FEEL *justified*.

- The *state* of our mind, emotion, & will...
 - Can VARY from moment-to-moment.
 - Because sometimes we get in the flesh...
 - And our sinful nature fights against God.

(Gal 5:17) NKJV

“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

AND EVEN THOUGH...

- I have *peace with God* (v.1)...
 - I don’t always feel like it because of sin.

THIS IS WHY WE ALSO **NEED**...

- The *peace of God* – (John 14:27) NLT

ADAM & EVE HID FROM GOD...

- When they sinned... AND we do the same thing.
- It’s an act of faith to believe God for what He’s done.
 - We exercise faith when we don’t feel like we deserve grace.

(v.2) *Access* – Deals with my *in-the-moment* privileges...

- When I don’t feel justified.
- God gives us *access* to His favor...
 - So we can *stand* AND *rejoice*...
 - Even though things are not going as planned.

IDEA #2 – POWER IN THE PROBLEMS

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WHEN WE FACE...

- Problems / frustrations / & failures...
 - By faith we hold onto a right perspective:

#1 – THE **SOURCE** OF TRIBULATIONS

- The world (John 16:33)
 - The flesh (Gal. 4:13-14) health & (James 1:14) temptation
 - The devil (Luke 22:31) & (Job 1:6-12)

#2 – THE **PURPOSE** OF TRIBULATION

- He’s working as we’re sifted (1 Peter 1:6-7).
- He’s helping us under the pressure (Phil. 4:13).
- He’s giving us understanding for the trials (James 1:2-6).

#3 – THE **RESULT** OF TRIBULATION

- We thank Him.

(Hosea 2:14-16) NLT

(v.5) THE FIRST MENTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- Is seen as an abundant surplus being poured into us.
- (John 7:38)
 - **Rivers** of living water would pour FROM our lives...
 - Because of the Holy Spirit IN our lives.

IDEA #3 – NO GREATER LOVE

THESE VERSES SHOW HOW GOD DEMONSTRATED...

- His love for you personally.

GOD LOVED YOU WHEN YOU WERE A SINNER...

- **Not** when you were cleaned up...
 - But when you were **a wreck!**

~ IN CLOSING ~

Communion... (Matt 26:26-30) NLT