



ROMANS

“... having been justified by faith ...” 5:1-2

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Therefore: While Paul has used “Therefore” before in this letter, and Romans is a continuing series of logical constructions and rhetorical questions, this “Therefore” is very significant. It introduces the believer to the outcome from all that has been set down in Romans 3:21 to 4:25. All that has been set down in Romans 3:21 to 4:25 is summarized in the phrase...

having been justified: To be justified (*dikaoō*) is to be “declared righteous”. In this verse, the verb is an *aorist passive participle* which means that relative to the present tense “we have”, it is in the the past, and is passive because God did the justifying.



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Forgiveness of sins – Acts 10:43; Colossians 2:13,14

Redemption: The **ransom** price paid through Christ’s death on the cross for the whole world, but effective for those who believe & are in Christ - Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14

Justification: Those who have forgiveness of sins as a result of redemption, which is by faith alone, are then declared righteous – they have the righteousness of Christ, because they are in Christ – **Romans 3:21-26**; Galatians 3:24



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by faith: The phenomenal declaration of righteousness that believers have is simply and totally by faith. There is no human contribution either by accomplishment or abstinence of any kind, nor by effort, attempt, experience, genealogy or any other humanly conceivable work or virtue. It is by faith in God’s provision alone.

we have: “we have” (***echōmen***) is the expression in the New Testament epistles of the believer’s position in Christ, such as 2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have (***echōmen***) this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.” and Ephesians 1:7, “In Him we have (***echōmen***) redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”. The believer is not simply justified and then set loose with no further benefit, consequence or accompanying result. There are things that we irreversibly have as blessings that most definitely accompany our having been declared righteous.



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peace with God: This is not subjective, personal peace within ourselves (like Galatians 5:22), nor peace between Jews and Gentiles (like Ephesians 2:11-17), but peace with God. That peace with God is likewise a part of the position we have in Christ which was God’s doing entirely by faith (1 Corinthians 1:30).

This peace with God is a permanent resolution of the problem Paul identified about mankind in Romans 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness”. But while God was the One offended, it was God who took the initiative to reconcile us to Him so that we might be at peace with God as a matter of our eternal position in Christ (Romans 5:10,11).

Believer → God



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through our Lord Jesus Christ: The breakthrough in the alienation between God and man was brought about through Jesus Christ – His death on the cross, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension & His seating. But that breakthrough went far, far, beyond just taking care of the problems of the sins, but was the basis for all the unfathomable blessings as well:

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Ephesians 3:8 (NKJV)

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,



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through whom we also have: Through Jesus Christ, by whom we have been justified on the basis of faith, we don't only have peace with God – as good as that is for us to have. There is yet more to our blessings and eternal position. Though this “we ... have” is the same root word as in verse 1 (***echō***), it is in the *perfect tense*: we have it as a completed past action with ongoing results, the *perfect tense* also implying permanence. So just what is it we have permanently?

access: This is no ordinary “access”, as if there were simply an open door or an unlocked gate. This word is ***prosagōge*** – a privileged royal introduction which, once given is not revocable, as indicated by the perfect tense verb noted above. This faith is the initial faith by which we were saved, since “we have” is in the perfect tense

into this grace in which we stand: The palace of overwhelming blessing into which we have been given a royal introduction is not just a place we're just passing through or just getting to take a peek. Our introduction gives us a standing – an eternal position.



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and rejoice in hope: Up to this point the verses have been pretty factual – profoundly positive in nature, but factual. This is the first phrase in these two verses that makes note of our recognition of the character and magnitude of the blessings and our position in Christ that involves our response. Here is where it is clear that what God has done through Christ is a massive alteration of our past, present and future, because we can respond to our blessings with a certain hope – an outlook toward the future that absolutely counts on a mind-bogglingly glorious outcome.

of the glory of God: This is phenomenal - no second tier or subsidiary glory is indicated here! This is the glory - the incomparable radiance of who God is – that is the focus of the believer’s hope (a glory which unbelievers fall short of – Romans 3:23). This is the Glory that is central to God’s eternal purpose: to reveal, declare, & share His glory so as to glorify Him. Colossians 3:4, “When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”



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By faith & by grace:

- By faith we have been justified – dealing with our past
- By faith we have peace with God – a possession in the present
- By faith we have a certain hope – for a sure & glorious future

All of this is by grace & grace alone – a grace so infinite that it will take eternity to reveal it all to us in, who in gasping amazement will be a living fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose (Ephesians 2:7; 3:11). By faith and by grace we are not only set free from the worst sentence of condemnation a human being could possibly receive, but we are blessed with eternal, irreversible blessings that are so overwhelming that they cannot be exceeded, and indeed are so vast that they can hardly be comprehended.