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Living Hope EFC

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So...what's different, now that we're justified by faith? Rom.5:6-11, Part 4. God has made us His friends.

ILLUS: Dr. Barnhouse, "Why don't you pray to the saints?"

Dr. Barnhouse once pastored a little Evangelical Reformed Church in the French Alps. Once a week he went to a neighboring village for an instruction class for its children. On the way, he passed the local priest who was on a similar errand in the opposite direction. "We became good friends and often stopped to chat."

One time the priest asked Barnhouse ***why we do not pray to saints***. Barnhouse replied by asking him ***why we should*** pray to saints.

The priest launched into an explanation that involved an illustration of how one might get an *interview with the president* of the French Republic. One could go to the ministry of agriculture, or *through* the departments of war or finance, etc., and any one of the cabinet members might succeed in opening the door to the president's office.

He smiled with an air of triumph, as though to say that the simplicity & clarity of his argument would preclude any rebuttal.

Barnhouse replied: "But Monsieur (Mister) le Cure, ***suppose that I were the son*** of the President of France. I live in the palace with him. I get up from the breakfast table & kiss him good-bye as he goes to his office. Then I go down to the *minister of finance*, for example, and ask the *4th secretary* of the *2nd assistant* if it is possible for me to see the minister of finance. IF I succeed in reaching his office my request is for an interview with papa."

My friend appeared thunderstruck, and I went on to say: "***I am a child of God, heir of God and joint-heir with Christ; saved through the death of the Savior, and just as a son, I have immediate access to the Father.***"

- Barnhouse, *Romans*, 27-28

A startling thought! Yet this is what Scripture tells us about the Christian:

1 John 3:1-3. And this is exactly what Paul, writing under divine inspiration, tells us about our relationship with God—in Rom. 5-8; **8:15**-.

- **Such a claim would be the height of fantasy if God had not spoken it.**
- The believer has become a child of God – **John 1:11-12.**
- **A child is as much a son at birth as he is at any subsequent point in his existence.** With the result that...
- To all those who have been declared righteous **by faith in Christ**, God distributes **NOW** the benefits of His abundant provision of grace, immediately and eternally. These are God's means for the believer's radical transformation both for eternity & for his daily living
 - **God always speaks of us as present possessors. – Col.2:9,10**
 - **We are not on probation. Grace is not given "partially."**

Rom.5: Paul begins listing the Benefits of those who are *justified*:

1- Peace with God – replacing hostility.

2- Access into grace, our new standing. The believer is:

Redeemed. Reconciled. Sins atoned. In God's eternal plan (chosen before the world began). Forgiven all sins. United to Christ, his old man crucified, given resurrection life. Freed from law. Child of God. Adopted by God. Acceptable in Christ. Justified. Delivered from the power of darkness. Translated from K'dom of darkness to K'dom of His Son. Made a royal priesthood. Citizenship in heaven. In the family and household of God. United to the Body of Christ. Joint heirs with Christ.

Access to God. Seated in heavenly places. Part of the Bride of Christ. At peace with God. Has an eternal inheritance. Made light to the world. United in spirit to the Father, Son and H.S. Indwelt & sealed with the Holy Spirit. Glorified. Complete in Christ. Possess every spiritual blessing. Given eternal life.

- They can be summed up by **Eph.1:3- "every spiritual blessing."**

ILLUS: BY THE WAY...have you ever thought about this? **What kind of Person** is it that gives you permanent possession in his house? Opens up his checkbook, gives you full rights & shared ownership of everything he owns? What kind of a Person would do such a think? This is your God

- How difficult is it for us to open our wallet & give someone \$500?

Q: What kind of a person is this God, in whose grace we stand? **Eph.3:20**

Salvation by Grace brings the believer into divine realities of blessing, all given instantaneously & simultaneously at our spiritual birth

3- We rejoice in the hope of glory. A joyful **confident expectation** of our full **transformation**: glorification with Christ! Our guarantee-**Col.1:27**

4- We rejoice in sufferings. Paul says: "In light of the fact that we are God's children – trials & sufferings are actually a part of God's **process** in our coming Glory – **2 Cor. 4:16-18; Rom.8:18**

- Our Father - takes the initiative to develop His character in us.

EXAMPLE: Child training, parenting.

- How many hours does a mom or dad put into training, correcting, disciplining – his child? WHY?
- **μεν:** Because **we love them**. **James 1:2-3** - "Mature and complete."
- **δε:** Because **character does not develop naturally**. It takes time, trials

Part of the wealth God gives to those who are JUSTIFIED, **is knowing** that even our trials are measured with divine wisdom & purpose.

Rom.5:6-8. Paul summarizes how we came into this blessed state.

How we came to our good fortune, "justified by faith."

Verse 6: While we were powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

1. **οὐτὼν** – **State of being ptcl** for emphasis of our condition; v.6,8,10

- **Not just: “We were weak,” but “while we were being weak.”**
- Our condition. We were: (1) *Weak*. (2) *Ungodly*. (3) *Sinners*, v.8. (4) *Under God’s wrath* v.9. (5) *God’s enemies*, v.10.
- This takes us back to our helplessness and inability in Rom.**3:9-20**.

2. While in this state Christ died for (**in place of**) the “ungodly,” us.

Moule: “His death is both the supreme proof of divine love, and the supreme requirement of divine law.”

- In verses 6-8 Paul uses the little preposition υπερ, four times.
- υπερ– **means**: “in behalf of,” or “in place of.” (Substitutionary).
- In verse 7 he clarifies the thought as substitutionary.
- This is important. It is **one thing** for someone to do something in your behalf. It is **another** – for them to take your place!
- Christ died **in the place** of the ungodly, the sinner, US! – **3:25**.

ILLUS: John Toth

I have a good friend who is in prison. **It is one thing** for me to go visit him or help raise funds for his legal defense or his family.

It is another thing – for me to take his place. If the judge were to say: “I will allow an innocent person to take John’s place – so he can be free to take care of his family and business.” – Would I be willing to do that?

- He might even remind me, “*Don’t worry, in 3 years you’ll be free.*”
- What do you think? It’s just 3 years of prison? You’ll be out by 62.

POINT: *Did Jesus know He would be raised from the dead?* Yes. I’m sure it wasn’t that big a deal for Him *to die* for us, knowing He’d be alive again in 3 days?? (We must understand what He really did for us!)

- To leave heaven, endure the cross, the nails, the jeers, the shame, the suffering & separation. “It will only be a few hours of acute pain & death. Then you’ll be alive again!” -

POINT: **The wages of our sin was death. He died in our place.**

We came into our standing of grace, because **He paid our debt** to God. By accepting his payment, God declares us *free, justified*.

Verse 7-8: Paul tells us WHY GOD WOULD DO THIS.

The question has to come to us: “*WHY would God do such a thing?*”

Schaeffer: “There is nothing mechanical about the Christian walk, It is always a personal relationship in which we believe God.”

- Here is the first mention of “**why**” God provided salvation for man.

1. **V.7 – For someone to die for another person is highly unusual!**

ILLUS: Remember, Peter even disowned, Christ 3 times!

- No one came to the rescue of the “perfect, good” man.

2. **V.8 – By contrast, God did the totally unexpected.**

- Not only did he die...BUT He died for us **while** we were sinners.

- And He did it because of "*His own*" love for us.
- [His peculiar love](#): love uncaused by the recipients. **1 John 4:9-10**
- No other religion boasts of it's God dying for the adherents.

Benefit 5: The believer is saved from God's wrath! 5:9

Paul's point: If God loved us while we were sinners, & He accepted His son's sacrifice as just payment for our sins, **now** that He Himself declares us righteous there's **no chance** that we'll ever experience His wrath.

[Christ's blood met the holy demands of God's judgment against our sins.](#)

- Once we put our faith in Christ and have been forgiven our sins and declared righteous by God, **NOW** justified – at peace with God – standing in grace – all **cause of wrath is removed eternally!**
- **Greek** - the verse begins: "**Much More, having been justified now**"
- **MUCH MORE** – having become God's children – we are totally safe from God's wrath. Wrath is only demonstrated where there is sin.
- **1 Thes.1:10. John 5:24. Is.53:5**

Benefit 6: The believer stands *reconciled* to God, NOW. 5:10-11

1. **Vs.10: If the death of God's Son restored us to friendship with God, now that we are friends (He's our Father), how MUCH MORE will His Son's life maintain permanence in our relationship with Him?**

- **Heb.4:14-16; 7:24-25; 1 John 2:1-2; Heb.10:14-19,22-25**
- **This is the post-resurrection ministry of Christ – for His people.**
- What if we had a **sneak preview** of heaven, just to be sure?
- **Heb.12:22-24; Rev.5.**

ILLUS: Newell. [Reconciliation](#)

Suppose I am the master of a school and I make a rule that there is to be no swearing. I write the rule on the blackboard, and the whole school sees and hears it. **The penalty** is announced too: *there is to be a whipping if any one breaks the rule.*

Now, there is a boy named John Jones in my school, a boy I am fond of. At recess *he swears*. Everybody hears him; I hear him; everybody knows I hear him. When I call the school to order, all the students are looking at me to see what I'll do.

I have a son of my own in the schoolroom, a beloved son, *Charles*. I call him & we go outside to talk, while the school waits. I say, "**Son, will you take John Jones whipping for him? He doesn't believe that I love him.**" He thinks I hate him because he has broken my rule. There must be a whipping. I must be true to my word, but you know how I love John."

My son says, "Yes father, I'll do anything for you that you wish. I love John Jones too."

I bring my son, Charles, up before the whole school, and I say, "**This is John Jones' whipping I am giving to my son Charles.**" The law of the school was broken by John Jones. **I am putting the penalty on my boy.** He says he will gladly do this for me and for John."

Then I whip my son Charles; and I do not spare him. I whip him just as if he were John Jones, just as if he had broken the rule himself.

When the whipping is over, I say to a student, "Go and tell John Jones I have nothing against him-nothing at all. And ask him to come and give me his hand." This breaks John Jones up and he comes forward in tears and says, "*I didn't know you loved me that much!* Thank you from my heart!" **Now he is reconciled from his side to me.** But you see I reconciled him to myself, first. I had to deal with his disobedience, or be myself unrighteous. –Newell,171-172

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation means a change of relationship from hostility to harmony and peace.

- People can be reconciled to one other: Mt.5:24; 1 Cor.7:11;
- God has reconciled us to Himself: 2 Cor.5:18-21; Eph.2:16, Col.1:20.

The Need: Because of sin God and man are in a relationship of hostility and enmity. As **our Creator**, God loves us. **As Judge** of the universe, God must hate and judge sin. We were under His wrath. Our situation couldn't have been more serious.

How were we reconciled? [The blood/ death of Christ completely changed the former state of hostility to friendship.](#) ON the cross Christ takes our wrath and the sentence against us is dropped.

2. Vs.11: Present reality: We can NOW rejoice!

APPLY: It is important to realize that we can only rejoice if there is a true reason to do so. Paul is not faking a religious piety here. He is not telling us we should be happy because *we might* go to heaven.

- ***We couldn't rejoice if there was still a chance we might suffer eternal judgment!***

ILLUS: A POW only rejoices WHEN he knows his release is 100% certain! If torture or death were possibilities, he could not rejoice!

- We can only truly have peace & joy – IF our salvation from judgment, our friendship with God, our justification – is guaranteed!
- It either is, or it isn't. And God says it IS!

Q: How can a person become friends with God? Only One Way!

It is no use trying to become worthy of God's love or forgiveness, or trying to pay for righteousness. (1) We are utterly bankrupt when it comes to righteousness. (2) Our payment is an insult to Christ's payment.

[Rom.5:8, 11](#)