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Living Hope EFC

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So...what's different, now that we're justified by faith? Rom.5:1-5, Part 1 – We stand in grace!

Illus: A Gov't Pension for life and yet starving!

In the late 1700's an aged Indian, half naked & famished, wandered into one of our Western settlements, begging for food.

While devouring the bread given him, the storekeeper noticed a bright colored ribbon with a small pouch hanging from the end of it, hanging around his neck. The storekeeper asked where he had gotten it. The Indian replied it was **a charm given to him in his younger days.**

The Indian opened the pouch and inside was a faded, greasy piece of paper that he gave to the store clerk for inspection. It turned out to be a discharge from the Federal Army, entitling him to a **pension for life!**

- Signed by General George Washington!

Here was this Indian starving, living like a beggar, when all the time the U.S. Gov't stood ready to supply all his needs. He wasn't even aware of it. Or, if he was, he didn't believe it!

POINT: It is possible to be rich beyond our dreams, & either not know it, or not believe it. In either case = the result is a lifestyle of **poverty!**

The same is true in our relationship with God and our spiritual wealth!

Jesus came to give us life, and that *more abundantly!* What did he mean by that? Was he talking about life-changing resources here & now?

Overview of Paul's argument in Romans 1-8:

1:1-17 –The Good News about Jesus Christ is that HE IS God's power for Salvation (deliverance from sin's dominion) to everyone *who believes* it. Through this Good News, God makes men righteous.

1:18-3:20 – All men, Jew & Gentile alike, are in themselves sinful & un- righteous, under the wrath of God, unable to make themselves righteous.

3:21-31 – Righteousness from God is given freely to every person who **believes** that in Christ's sacrificial death, God's demands of judgment against man's sin was forever satisfied and ended!

4:1-25 – Even Abraham & David were not declared righteous because of personal achievement based on keeping God's laws, but **by faith** in God's promises & power.

5:1-8:39 – To all those who have been justified (declared righteous) by faith in Christ, **God NOW distributes the benefits of His abundant provision of grace**, immediately and eternally, which are His means for the believer's radical transformation both for eternity & for his daily living

In Romans 5 Paul begins to unveil "**the riches of His grace**"—**Eph.1:7,8,18-**

- The WEALTH of the Christian! What happened when we believed!
- What's the difference **NOW** THAT WE ARE JUSTIFIED?

A WORD ABOUT FAITH:

- (1) Paul used the word 19 times in Rom.3 & 4, in contrast with "works."
- (2) Faith inherits the promises of God! Men's efforts & abilities do not!
 - If the Indian does not believe his pension is real... = poverty!
- (3) Faith does not create any reality, it inherits God's promised reality.
- (4) "Faith is always the bridge over which divine forces move to construct that Christian experience, which conforms to the Word," – Dr. Huegel
- (5) Without faith – it is impossible to please God or inherit His promises.
 - **Luke 18:8** "When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth?"
 - **In Heb 11**, there is a great list of those who conquered by faith. God is still adding to the list. **What will be written after our name**

Rom. 5:1-5. An intro to our benefits/ *pension* of every believer!

The "riches of His Grace" represent all that God can do to satisfy His own infinite love for the sinner. To the end that infinite love can be gratified, He accomplishes infinite transformations. – Chafer, 227

1- The huge significance of the Greek verbs.

(Past) Because we have been declared r'ous. **(There must be a moment of faith in Christ, as there is a moment we said "I DO!")=Guilt removed**

> (Pres) we have peace with God. (Perf) We have access into grace > (Perf) Grace is our standing! (Pres) We can rejoice in the hope of sharing God's Glory! (Pres) We can even rejoice in sufferings. (Perf) We have knowledge into the purpose of sufferings we did not have previously. (Perf) God's love is now residing in our hearts through the H.S.

(Past) Who has been given to us.

2- Being justified by faith immediately brings us into multiplied blessing

- **These are all present realities of the resurrected Christ's achievements**

(1) Peace with God. Not an emotion, but a relationship based on Christ's payment for our sin. **GOD is at peace – with us!**

2- **Grace**, the new spiritual atmosphere in which the believer now lives. Eternal, undeserved benefits that never run out! It is the attribute of God exclusively & eternally demonstrated toward those deserving judgment but given the riches of heaven instead. -**Eph.2:4-8**

3- **JOY** in the anticipation of **coming glory** with Christ. **8:18-25**

4- Knowing there is a divine **purpose** for our **trials**, **2 Cor.4:17**.

5- God, Himself, takes the initiative in developing **character** in us.

6- **Knowledge** into many new truths (the mind of Christ).

7- **No** disappointments from serving, hoping in, believing in Christ.

8- True **heart change**. We have come to know God's infinite love.

9- The indwelling permanent **presence of the H.S.**, NOW our possession.

- God views the believer as having **now obtained** this new inheritance, these new benefits.
How many of us REALLY believe they are ours?

3 – How far we have come from Rom.1:18! We have come from:

(1) Wrath (1:18) – to peace with God. (2) God-haters (1:30) – to access/ friendship. (3) Rejected by God (1:28)– to sharing God’s glory.
(4) Ungodly lifestyles (1:18) – to proven character. (5) Deserving death (1:32) – to joy & hope of glory. (6) Hatred & rebellion to love. (7) Futile thinking & foolish hearts (1:21) – to knowledge from God. (8) Heartless, deceitful, striving, malice (1:29)– to perseverance in suffering. (9) From condemnation – to justification. (10) Depraved sinful nature & perversion (1:28) – to the indwelling H.S. (11) Death (1:32)– to life.
(12) Law/ works – to grace.

CAN THIS REALLY BE TRUE? Is it possible to know?

Some may say, “Isn’t it rather arrogant **presumption** to say that you know you’re going to heaven?”

- It seems to me it would be more arrogant to say we know more than God does! To say He is mistaken! -**Rom**.3:22,24,26,28; 4:5; 5:1; 8:33

“BUT...I don’t feel righteous.”

Our tendency - when sin comes into our lives - is to think **God has changed is attitude toward us. We must not confuse the “presence” of sin in us, with the “penalty” for sin – which God says has been paid.**

- God’s eyes are ever on His Son’s payment, not our relative goodness.
- No one is ever saved because of positive feelings.

PAULS SAYS – We have peace with God, and this is a present reality!

We stand justified in the very presence of the infinite God Himself!

NOW **“faith”** will bring into our experience the reality of this JOY.

- **“Faith is always the bridge over which divine forces move to construct that Christian experience, which conforms to the Word,”**

EXAMPLE...

TESTIMONY: Francis Schaeffer – *Finished Work of Christ*, 126-128.

“In my own life, there are some sins that seem to crop up again and again. In despair I’ll say, ‘I’ve done it again!’ So what do I do then? I acknowledge the sin. I lay hold of the work of Jesus Christ. I bring that individual sin under the covering of His blood. If, after doing so, my conscience continues to bother me, it is because I am minimizing the validity and the power of Christ’s blood.

Sometimes, in these situations, I have pictured my conscience as a big black dog, jumping up on me with its muddy paws. If I have brought the individual sin under Christ’s blood and the big black dog of my conscience still jumps up on me with its muddy paws, I must in faith say, ‘Get down!’ I must remind myself of the infinite value of Christ’s blood to cleanse me of all sin. ‘This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith in relation to temptation before our sin

after we fall.' Or as Paul is telling us in 5:1-2, justification comes by faith, and the resulting peace with God also comes by faith...

Faith lings us to the promises of God for the present life, just as it did for our initial salvation.

Coming back to Rom.5:1: Having been justified, in the past, we are now, in the present, able to have peace in our hearts. How? By faith. We need to help each other know the reality of this present aspect of salvation. Our peace with God is not just some introspective thing. It is a peace based upon God's promise that Christ's atoning death is enough to meet all our present failures. When I became a Christian, I realized that Christ's blood was enough to cover my past sin. By the same token, I can also know that it is enough to cover the sins I have committed since I awoke this morning. From time to time I do something so bad that I realize that, if it depended on me, I would surely be lost again. When those times come, I must realize that I can bring those things under the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, and that His blood is enough to cleans me. Then I can simply say thank you. This is the source of peace in the Christian's heart. It isn't just an emotional experience...It's the objective reality of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, applied to our present necessity in day-by-day, moment-by-moment cleansing.

Someone might ask, 'How often can we do this? How often can we claim forgiveness for these endless daily sins?' We can do so as often as we need to...seventy times seven (Matt.18:22)...

Someone might object: Doesn't this do discredit to the work of the Lord Jesus, to fall into temptation and an hour later to fall into the same temptation-and both times to 'bring it under the blood of Jesus?' Doesn't this trivialize Christ's work? Quite the contrary, there is really only one thing that can minimize Christ's saving work, and that is our failing to lay hold of it.

I'm convinced from watching other Christians and reading about Christians through the centuries, and through personal experience, that this is when we begin to make our forward steps as Christians: When I know through experience that I can lay hold of Christ's blood by faith to cover my sins this morning, and then to cover my sins this afternoon, even if they're the same sins – when I know this, the preciousness of Christ's blood becomes a tremendous reality. I begin to live in the light of His presence and in the light of His work-not just in the past or in the future, but in the present. I begin to live in the reality of the supernatural world.

Some would teach that once a person is truly a Christian he is perfect in this life, but the Bible doesn't teach this. A true Christian is not someone who is in any sense approaching moral perfection; rather, a true Christian is that person who knows, by experience, the ever-present wonder of being able to lay hold of the blood of Jesus and then being able to say thank you, knowing that his or her fellowship with God is completely restored."

What Paul is saying in Romans 5: [The believer in Jesus Christ can be 100% sure that he will never encounter the wrath of God, and that he stands in a position of unalterable, eternal favor, destined to share in the very glory of God, with Christ!](#)

- And the benefits of our grace standing can be experienced today!