



13.
'Right with God'
Romans 5.1-11

Background

'Justification' is a bit of an abstract concept which can sometimes leave a person cold. It's an important term, nonetheless, because it relates to a hugely important issue in our lives – namely, our standing with God. And few things can ultimately be more important than this.

Are we right with Him? Or subject to His rightful wrath? When we meet our Maker – as all of us one day will – when we meet our Maker, whose we are and to whom we must give an account, what is He going to make of us? Will the verdict be one of guilt and condemnation? Or will we be declared righteous in His sight?

It's this issue of how we can be right with God that Paul has been addressing in the previous chapters: he's insisted that our own efforts will never be good enough, and that therefore we need a 'righteousness' already effected by God Himself, in and through the Lord Jesus – a righteousness which is now given freely to all who will have it, and received by us in faith.

That's *how* we get right with God. But *what's it like* being right with God? Is that right standing little more than a bit of heavenly bureaucracy, the spiritual equivalent of a tax-coding note from HMRC? Or does that right standing before God actually impact your daily experience in significant ways?

It's that latter line which Paul is intent on expounding in this passage. Being right with God ('justified') changes everything. It changes who you are and how you think of yourself. It changes the way you view and relate to God. It changes the way you respond to life's trials. It changes the way you look on and ponder a future which cannot be seen. It changes everything!

It's worth giving long and careful reflection on these verses. Building on what Paul's been saying in previous chapters, and grasping the truths he is articulating here, has a profoundly transforming effect on your experience, your service and your growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ!

Read the whole passage and if you're short of time concentrate on '**days**' (1), (4) and (5).

1) Monday 15th April – peace with God

Read [Rom.5.1](#)

“.. we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ..” (Rom.5.1)

Can you really know any sort of peace with God when you have a nagging conscience, besetting sins, and a life that falls far short of the glory of God? The work of Jesus in your place ensures you can! The guilt of your sin has been completely removed!

Read [Jer.6.14](#): how can you be sure that the ‘peace’ you know with God is genuine and not your wound being dressed ‘as though it were not serious’?

If someone asked you what’s meant by the phrase ‘peace with God’, how would you answer them?

Later in the passage (v.10) Paul will speak of our being ‘enemies’ of God: how would you counter a non-believer who claimed they weren’t God’s enemy?

‘Peace’ with God may be true objectively, but what can we do to ensure that we are increasingly experiencing it *subjectively*?

Prayer: *What a Friend You are to Your people, Lord Jesus, bearing for us not only our sins but our griefs and our trials too. Help me bring my every burden to You in prayer.*

2) Tuesday 16th April – access to God

Read [Rom.5.2](#)

“.. through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace ..” (Rom.5.2)

Ever been frustrated by being put on hold interminably as you try to get through on the phone? No such problems getting through to the Lord when you come in Jesus’ Name! No waiting around. No jumping through hoops. Easy and immediate access!

How would you help someone who struggles in prayer because they feel they’re just not ‘getting through’ to God?

Read [Eph.2.18](#): should it be to ‘the Father’ that we pray?

Prayer: *What a privilege You have given me, my Lord and King, in giving me access into the throne room of the universe and bidding me pour out my heart to You!*

3) Wednesday 17th April – future with God

Read [Rom.5.2](#)

“.. we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God ..” (Rom.5.2)

Whatever you may be facing at present, for the believer the best is still to come. God, who makes things grow, makes sure of that. A new relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, ensures a new future from God that is unspeakably glorious!

To what is Paul referring when he speaks of 'the glory of God' for which we hope?

In what ways would it be evident to those around you that your life is characterised by hope?

Prayer: *I gladly praise You today, my Lord, for Your great faithfulness in the past; for Your grace towards me in the present; and for the prospect of Your glory still to come.*

4) Thursday 18th April – conformed to Christ

Read [Rom.5.3-4](#)

".. we also glory in our sufferings because we know suffering produces .." (Rom.5.3)

We neither go looking for suffering, nor try hiding from suffering; but in faith we recognise that God in His sovereign wisdom and grace uses the trials we face and the suffering we bear to fashion in us the likeness of Christ and conform us to His image.

How can you 'glory in your sufferings' without becoming rather masochistic?

Our society has become increasingly 'comfort-loving' and seeks to avoid all suffering and pain: has the church in western world become too 'comfortable'?

Read [Job 2.11-13](#): how might you best comfort and help those who are experiencing great suffering?

What has been your experience of suffering being something productive in your life?

Prayer: *Keep me, Lord, from bitterness and resentment when life is hard or things don't turn out for me as I'd have wished: help me to trust that You work all things for good.*

5) Friday 19th April – loved by God

Read [Rom.5.5-8](#)

".. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit .." (Rom.5.5)

The gospel is fundamentally relational, and the central reality of our lives as believers is God's love for us. That love is mediated to us experientially through His Spirit poured out on His people, and demonstrated objectively to us in the work of His Son.

Many people wonder whether God could possibly love them: how can such individuals be helped to know the love of God for them?

In what sense has God's love "been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us"?

In what ways are we able to safeguard and enlarge our enjoyment of the love of God?

How can you help a fellow-believer who is passing through a 'dark night of the soul' with little or no sense of the love of God for him/her?

It would be easy to think that Paul is simply pointing to the love of Jesus as an example we should follow: why is that not really what he's pointing to?

Prayer: My sins, they are many, Lord – I'm always conscious of that. How grateful I am, therefore, that Your mercy is always more! Help me to show Your love to others.

6) Saturday 20th April – saved in Christ

Read [Rom.5.9-10](#)

".. how much more shall we be saved .." (Rom.5.9, 10)

What God has already done for His people through Jesus is the basis for the confidence we have as to what He will yet do. If He loved us while we were enemies, how much richer and fuller will be the experience of that love now that we're reconciled to Him?

What is Paul intent on underlining by using the phrase 'how much more..' twice in these verses?

If someone asked you what it means to be 'saved' how would you respond?

Prayer: My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord there is none like You: all of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your love. Nothing compares to the promise I have in You!

7) Sunday 21st April – delighted in God

Read [Rom.5.11](#)

".. we also boast in God .." (Rom.5.11)

Our deepest joy is in God Himself, delighting in the Father, through the Son, and by the Holy Spirit. Stir in your heart that love for the Lord which will see that your worship today with God's people will be an expression of the joy and delight you have in Him.

Read [Jer.9.23-24](#): in what practical ways will your boasting in God find expression in your day by day living?

Read [Lk.15.11-32](#): what has been your experience of having 'now received reconciliation'?

Prayer: O Lord, You are my Shepherd and hearing Your voice I gladly follow where You lead. Your people shall be my people, and Your work that to which I shall give my all.