

# SERMON OUTLINE Romans 5:1-5

Justified by Faith

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## **What is justification?**

*"Justification is an instantaneous legal act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in His sight" (Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, p. 723).*

## **What does it mean to be justified by faith? (Romans 3:20-26)**

### **When We Are Justified by Faith:**

*We have peace with God (v. 1)*

*We now stand in God's favor (v. 2a)*

*We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (v. 2b)*

*We rejoice in our sufferings (vv. 3-5)*

- *Suffering produces endurance*
- *Endurance produces character*
- *Character produces hope*
- *Hope will never disappoint*

**Therefore, for the Believer...**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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In Romans 5:1–5 we learn that justification is God’s gracious act of declaring sinners forgiven and righteous through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works or obedience to the law. This foundational truth must be rehearsed often because it shapes daily Christian living, giving believers peace with God, continual standing in God’s favor, and joyful hope in the glory to come. The sermon also highlights that justification changes how Christians view suffering: trials are not meaningless, but are used by God to produce endurance, Christlike character, and deeper hope through the work of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, because Christ died for sinners and reconciled them to God, believers have every reason to live with confidence, joy, and hope rather than despair.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. How would you explain justification in your own words to someone who has never heard the term before?
2. Why is it important that we are justified by faith in Christ and not by our works of keeping of the Law?
3. What is the difference between having peace with God and experiencing the peace of God, and why does that distinction matter?
4. How does knowing that you stand continually in God’s favor change the way you approach God in prayer, worship, or daily life?
5. What does it mean to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, especially when life is painful or uncertain?
6. Why can believers rejoice even in suffering, and what difference does that make in life?
7. Have you seen suffering produce endurance, character or deeper hope in your own life or in the life of another believer? Explain.
8. How does Romans 5:6-11 deepen your understanding of God’s love for you in Christ?
9. Which of Darrel’s concluding statements challenges or encourages you the most, and how should it shape the way you live this week? Because of Romans 5:1-5...
  - Life in a fallen world is not pointless.
  - God is at work in our lives for our good.
  - What is for our good is a transformed life.
  - We have no good reason to have pity parties
  - We have no good reason to give up
  - We have no good reason to be hopeless
  - We have every good reason to be filled with hope and joy!
10. Why should the doctrine of justification be rehearsed by a believer again and again, like a baseball team warming up before a game?