

INTRO: The TWO GREAT THINGS that the gospel accomplishes...

1. It is the power of God to save everyone who believes!

TWO GREAT QUESTIONS: QUESTION ONE:

1. HOW is the gospel the power of God to save everyone who believes?

ANSWER: *Justification*: THE COURTROOM PART: A guilty person is declared righteous.

And now... Romans 5:1-21

FIRST: THE BENEFITS THAT COME TO "THE JUSTIFIED"

Actually, these five things all come down to one thing... "Can you see what it is?"

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, ..."

1. verse 1 we have peace with God

So that our one huge problem (with the wrath of God) is entirely addressed. All other states of peace (→ with people and with circumstances) are, in their true forms, results of this! (Real peace -- not a false truce.)

2. verse 2 we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand

Daily, a supply of enough of "God's undeserved favor" to maintain your standing... More of this in Romans 6 & 8

3. verse 2 we exult in hope of the glory of God

More of this too in Romans 8. The guaranteed prospect of a great and joyful future (Joyful? → "exult"!)

4. verses 3-10 we also exult in our tribulations

(Romans 8) Here's the guarantee that all present experience to the contrary is contributing to the same great prospect! So that (oddly!), the benefits of justification are such that justified sinners find the tribulations something to exult in, or rejoice in, or glory in...

Good news!!! I got fired just because as a Christian, I refused to lie to a client! I am suffering for the sake of righteousness!!!!

Good news! I have a really serious illness!

Good news! Our religious freedoms have been seriously eroded and it's now going to be harder than ever to be a Christian in Canada! Talk about an opportunity for the gospel. This one is 7,000 kilometres wide!!! Talk about your a mari usque ad mare! From sea to sea!

Matthew 5:10

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. **Rejoice and be glad**, [be exceeding glad!] for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, **keep on rejoicing**, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

James 1:2

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

So...

1 Peter 3:14

...even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED**, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to **give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence...

"By the lives we live..."

5. **verse 11 we also exult in God**

Above all, we find our joy in God Himself: Not anything that God gives you... it's just God Himself.
Now look at these benefits! → PEACE, GRACE, HOPE, JOY

"Do you see the one thing they all come down to?"

→ The relationship with God that is at the heart of
them all...

"The ultimate benefit!"

SECOND: THE SOURCE OF ALL THE BENEFITS THAT COME TO "THE JUSTIFIED"

1. verse 1 we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ
2. verse 2 Through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand
3. verse 6 At the right time Christ died for the ungodly
4. verse 8 While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us
5. verse 9 We shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him
6. verse 10 We shall be saved by His life
7. verse 11 Through whom we have now received the reconciliation
8. verse 15 Much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the One Man, Jesus Christ,
abound to the many
9. verse 17 Those ...will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ
10. verse 18 Through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men
11. verse 19 Through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous
12. verses 20,21 Grace abounded all the more ... even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

APPLICATIONS:

What do we do with all of this?

1. **Get in on it all!**

Faith is personal!

2. **"Exult in" it all!**

A dead-pan Christian???

3. **Spread the word about it all!**

Make known the greatness of God! ... which will involve talking about Jesus!