

ROMANS

PART 8: SEVEN BENEFITS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

Romans Chapter 5

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Now that Paul has laid the ground work for bringing the Jewish and Gentile believers together, he introduces the genuine benefits of being justified by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. No other religion can offer these seven benefits.

A. CENTRAL QUESTION

Why should I be a Christian?

B. KEY WORDS

- Boast (Gk. *kauchaomai*): to brag or rejoice. In Romans 5:2 it refers to joy/rejoicing.
- Hope (Gk. *elpizō*): a confident expectation of something in the future. It is not simply wishful thinking.
- Joy (Gk. *chara*): happiness, gladness.
- Peace (Gk. *eirēnē*): no longer being subject to God's wrath because of sin.

C. CHAPTER 5 OUTLINE

1. The benefits of justification through faith in the righteousness of Christ (1-11).
2. The fall of Adam brought all mankind into sin and death (12-14).
3. The grace of God, through the righteousness of Christ, has more power to bring salvation, than Adam's sin had to bring misery (15-21).

D. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the benefits of being a justified Christian as described in the following verses?
 - a) Romans 5:1. As a Christian I have _____.
 - b) Romans 5:2a. As a Christian I have _____.

- c) Romans 5:2b. As a Christian, I have _____.
- d) Romans 5:3-4. As a Christian I have _____.
- e) Romans 5:5. As a Christian I have _____.
- f) Romans 5:9. As a Christian I am _____.
- g) Romans 5:11. As a Christian I can _____.

2. John 14:27 says that Jesus gives a peace that is different from the world's peace. How would you describe the difference between God's peace and the world's peace?
3. Verse 5:2a says we have the benefit of access to God. Who was the only person who had direct access to God during the OT days? Who has access to God today?
4. Does having access to God mean he will always give us what we want, and when we want it? Why or why not?
5. Why can Christians be joyful (boast/rejoice) about their hope?
6. Paul says we are to glory in our sufferings? No one likes to suffer, so why should we "glory" in them?
7. How do we experience God's love according to Verse 5?
8. Scripture speaks of a day of wrath to come (Zeph. 1:15). According to Romans 5:9, who will be saved from that day of wrath to come?
9. What is the basis for boasting (being joyful) in verse 11? What else does 1 Peter 1:8 say about this?
10. Based on verses 18-19 describe the impact that both Adam and Jesus had on humanity.

E. CONCLUSIONS

Being a Christian not only gives believers a positive, encouraging hope for the future but it also produces amazing benefits in the here and now. Imagine how Paul's words in this chapter encouraged and united the Christian Jews and Gentiles in Rome.