

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 3

No 7

**“And Now, Having Been Justified . . .”**

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:23-5:5

This chapter begins to build a new life on a new basis of living. The saying is true, *If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* In our study series we stand at this crisis point. See the old passing away, the old life with its failures, its powerlessness, its disappointments and fear. Paul deals with the dread of death, the jeopardy of judgment and the uncertainty of the unknown. Remember what we have learned. We were sinners by choice, Romans 1:18-32. Religious self effort avails nothing, Romans 2:1-3:8. All the world is guilty before God, Romans 3:9-20. Only by trusting the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ are we declared to be righteous by God, Romans 3:21-31. The Old Testament teaches that men are made righteous by faith alone, Romans 4:1-23.

Now we stand at the dawn of a new day. All things in our lives are to become new. In the early verses of this chapter, new light is brightening our world, bringing warmth and the bird song of morning. Paul's lightening sky gives us a glimpse of what is to come in the next few chapters.

**First, Review the Basis of All God's Blessing.** Romans 4:25, *He (Jesus) was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*

Everything that comes to us from God comes to us because of our faith in His Son. It is by trusting that we are declared just and cleansed of our sin. Thus God clears the deck for action.

Wonderful as it is for a guilty sinner to know that he has been justified by God, and that God will not hold his sin against him, nothing else in his life has yet changed. God has not yet begun to re-create his heart. All this lays ahead.

**Second, Paul Gives Us a Preview of What Lays Ahead** Romans 5:1-5.

It is an introduction, a little sample of what is to come in the next four chapters. Here is what life has in store. Here are four resources God provides for his children. Mark them in your Bible for they are four storehouses of God's grace, four resources hidden in Jesus Christ to enrich and bless you. God gives to those whom He has

justified through faith:

1. *Peace with God* v1. This peace comes through being accord with God's righteousness. It is not peace with the world, as the world and the people in it are still at odds with God. The world's conflict goes on all around, but the believer is secure and at peace in his heart.
2. *Access by faith into this grace in which we now stand* v2. It is by God's grace through faith that we have been justified, but now that same grace through ongoing faith begins to supply all our needs in Christ Jesus, and we are complete in Him. My justification opens the door to the inexhaustible richness of God's kingdom. All things are ours by faith in Christ.
3. *Expecting God's Glory* v3. What a joy it is to know that we have a place in God's kingdom because we have a place in His heart. Not only is He important to us, but we are important to Him. Jesus put it to His disciples

like this, *In my Father's house are many rooms . . . I am going there to prepare a place for you.* John 14:2NIV. Just the anticipation of our place in His plans gives us joy. But it is not all in the future. God has a plan for our lives and it starts here, now, on this side of the grave.

4. *God's Love shining into our hearts* v5. The word is 'poured' or 'shed abroad', like the sunshine poured out into our world warms and cheers all it touches, so we live in the sunshine of His love.

**Third Paul Tells Us About God's Method.** Romans 5:3-5.

Paul also tells us about the method God uses to achieve His purpose, the path you may expect to travel. These are in the form of a technique called climax, where one builds upon another. There are four of these too. (v3,4&5a) Mark these in your Bible too:

- a. *Suffering.* This word is given as tribulation and has all the elements of trouble, distress and oppression. Is this the Christian life? It is a part of life which befalls many and God does not shield His children from negative things, but uses them to work His purposes. It is the fire which puts strength into the steel. *When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold* Job 23:10 RSV.
- b. *Patience.* This word also means

endurance or perseverance. The fire has done its work and the child of God has a strength to see him through. This strength is none other than the grace of God, the life of Jesus wherein we stand. You do not need patience, you need Jesus Christ.

c. *Experience.* In many Bible versions this is translated as character and also carries the meanings of testing or proving. Here is the quality of proven value. An engineer will specify materials which have been proven under test to perform a task. So God is specifying and selecting materials which have been proven against the assay of the life of His Son.

d. *Hope or anticipation.* Hope is not that we will escape punishment for sin, for we received that status when He declared us just. It is rather that we shall be conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God. We shall be fitted to take our place with Him in fellowship in His kingdom.

Notice that these steps are introduced between storehouse 3 and storehouse

4. Can you suggest why he puts them there? He is talking about hope leading to God's love, and he tells us about how hope works.

These first five verses can be condensed into just three words, three words Paul loved and he used over and over again; faith, hope and love. They are not for sentimental meditation, but resources for powerful, purposeful Christian living, and treasures that will endure the testing fires of time (1 Corinthians 13:13). Be sure that you draw on them from God's resources and build them into your life. They characterise three of the stages of Christian character and career. They will then be yours for eternity.

*Welcome*

**Glen Park Gospel Church**

Lower Road, Eltham North

**Sundays 10.30 am**

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