

*Romans Part Two: The Bridge from Earth to Heaven – Fourth Week*

# *The Blessings of Justification, Pt. 1*

*Romans 5:1-2*

**Introduction:** From Romans 3:21 through 4:25, Paul explains how God places people in a right standing with Him. Paul's core message is that people get right with God by receiving the benefits of the substitutionary death of his Son. Now Paul provides the amazing practical blessings of justification: he offers six. We'll explore the first three blessings of justification this week and three more next week.

## **1. 1<sup>ST</sup> BLESSING: PAST – We have peace with God. Romans 5:1**

- A. What it is: This peace is not an emotional peace but an objective, reality-based, peace.
- B. How it came: This peace came through the legal, once-for-all justification, we obtained through faith.
- C. What it produces: This peace allows us to relax in him, knowing that we're safe.
- D. The barriers: Some religious traditions forfeit this peace, because they don't believe it.

## **2. 2<sup>ND</sup> BLESSING: PRESENT – We have access to God. Romans 5:2a**

- A. The meaning – The word introduction (NASV) means we've entered a place of grace.
- B. Before Christ – Our access to God was severely limited.
- C. On the cross – Our access was completely opened up.
- D. In Christ – We are commanded to take advantage of this access.

## **3. 3<sup>RD</sup> BLESSING: FUTURE – We have the hope of heaven, with aspects of heaven beginning now. Romans 5:2b**

- A. Meaning – God's glory is his manifest excellence.
- B. Far Future – Heaven is a future so incredible we can barely comprehend it.
- C. Near Future – We get a foretaste of heaven through the Spirit's transforming work now. 2 Cor. 3:18
- D. Present – This hope massively encourages us. "We exult in [this] hope."