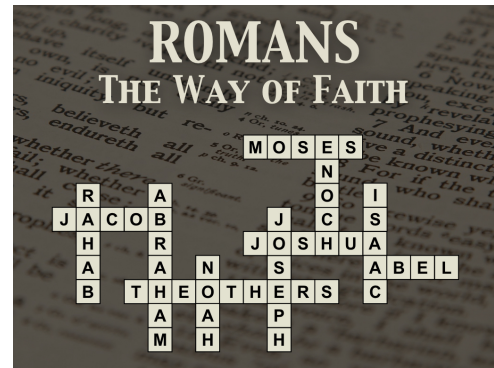


RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION

Justification is the act of God by which are made right with God. God has done this work through the offering of his Son. When we put our trust in Jesus Christ, we have peace with God. This peace changes our entire outlook on life and enables us to bring peace into our relationships and into our world. Living by faith in Christ requires us to shift our reliance from our own religious activity and set it entirely on His grace.



Results of Justification

Romans 5:1-10

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. **8** But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. **9** Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

Observations

Justified by faith

Justification by faith is an idea that can get lost in the practice of our religion. We cannot justify ourselves by our religious activities, but justification first takes place in the heart of God. God has reconciled us to himself through the blood of His Son. In order to receive the gift of justification, all God asks us to do is to acknowledge the work of the Son. This acknowledgement is called "faith." We put our faith in the work of Jesus Christ.

We have peace with God

Once an argument is resolved, the result is relational peace. By receiving the gift of justification, we have relational peace with God. We no longer have to worry about whether or not God accepts us. God has accepted us through the blood of His Son.

We rejoice in our suffering

Our new relationship with God changes everything, even how we perceive of our sufferings. We recognize that suffering can become a tool by which God shapes our lives. While we don't welcome or pursue suffering, we recognize its role in our spiritual growth.

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us...

therefore we can set our souls at rest. God will certainly finish the work He began in us. Our salvation is secure because it rests entirely in God's grace.



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Application *for abundant living:*



You are a masterpiece of God!
Each day, give God time to do his work
in your life. Great works of art are seldom
produced in a single day, but with daily,
consistent work.

Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

The Lives of the Saints Gone Before Us

The life of faith is best illustrated in the lives of the saints who have gone before us. Read **Hebrews chapter 11** for a wonderful list of the great saints who lived by faith... and then read the first verse of Hebrews 12 for a word of encouragement!

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Would you say you are quick or slow to apologize?

In your heart, do you feel that God is quick to become angry and slow to forgive, or slow to become angry and quick to forgive?

If God set you free from worrying about whether or not you were forgiven, how would you expend your energies?