

Romans 5:2-5—More Benefits Of Our Salvation: Glorious Hope, Christian Character, And God’s Love Within

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Introduction and revision

We continue in Romans chapter 5 where Paul describes seven wonderful benefits of salvation, for those who have chosen to humble themselves, and so “believe and receive” God’s free gift of justification (forgiveness). Last time we covered the first two glorious benefits of our salvation; peace with God and access to God. This week we cover the next three.

Warren Wiersbe gives a good summary of the first two benefits:

Peace with God (Romans 5:1): The unsaved person is at “enmity with God” (Romans 5:10; 8:7) because he cannot obey God’s Law or fulfill God’s will. Two verses from Isaiah make the matter clear: “There is no peace, says the Lord, for the wicked” (Isaiah 48:22); “And the work of righteousness shall be peace” (Isa. 32:17). Condemnation means that God declares us sinners, which is a declaration of war. Justification means that God declares us righteous, which is a declaration of peace, made possible by Christ’s death on the cross. “Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed” (Psalm 85:10). “Because the Law brings about wrath” (Rom. 4:15), nobody condemned by the Law can enjoy peace with God. But when you are justified by faith, you are declared righteous, and the Law cannot condemn you or declare war!

Access to God (Romans 5:2a): The Jew was kept from God’s presence by the veil in the temple; and the Gentile was kept out by a wall in the temple with a warning on it that any Gentile who went beyond would be killed. But when Jesus died, He tore the veil (Luke 23:45) and broke down the wall (Ephesians 2:14). In Christ, believing Jews and Gentiles have access to God (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19–25); and they can draw on the inexhaustible riches of the grace of God (Ephesians 1:7; 2:4; 3:8). We stand “in grace” and not “in Law.” Justification has to do with our standing; sanctification has to do with our state. The child of a king can enter his father’s presence no matter how the child looks. The word “access” here means “entrance to the king through the favour of another.”

Outline

1. (v 2b) The third benefit: Glorious hope
2. (v 3-4) The fourth benefit: Christian Character
3. (v 5) The fifth benefit: God’s love within

Romans 5:1-11 NKJV

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The following benefits are a direct result of the believer believing that their sin debt was paid in full by Jesus when He died on the cross for the sins of the world—God’s justice towards them is forever satisfied.

1. The third benefit—Glorious hope

Romans 5:2b NKJV

And rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:2b AMP

And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God.

Romans 5:2b NLT

And we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

v 2 **Rejoice:** **Rejoice** is the word normally translated *boast*. It means “a triumphant, rejoicing confidence.” (Morris)

When we understand just how wonderful God’s plans for us are, and that they are a certainty, then it doesn’t make sense that, instead of rejoicing **in hope of the glory of God**, we live and talk as though we have no future and no hope.

“Alas, how few believers have the courage of faith! When some saint here or there does begin to believe the facts and walk in shouting liberty, we say (perhaps secretly), ‘He must be an especially holy, consecrated man.’ No, he is just a poor sinner like you, who is believing in the abundance of grace!” (Newell)

v 2 **Hope:** **Hope** in the Scriptures always means trusting that God will give us what He has promised us in the future. “J.B. Philipps translates **hope** as *happy certainty*.” (David Guzik)

v 2 **Rejoice in hope of the glory of God:** So what do we have to look forward to in the future that God expects us to get so excited over and talk about so much?—**The glory of**

God revealed in us. For now, we can't see the amazing transforming work that God is doing inside us. We are a new creation, but the only problem is that we can't yet see what that new creation looks like. But one day we will, and we will be like Him—what could be better or more glorious than that. Who and what God is making us into is beyond our wildest dreams and expectations.

1 Corinthians 2:9 NKJV

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 John 3:2-3 NLT

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but He has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like Him, for we will see Him as He really is. ³ And all who have this eager expectation [hope] will keep themselves pure, just as He is pure.

2 Corinthians 3:18b NLT

And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

Philippians 1:6 NKJV

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

In addition to the revealing of who God has made us to be (the inner transformation), we also look forward to receiving our new resurrection or glorified bodies (the outer transformation).

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NLT

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. ⁴³ Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. ⁴⁴ They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

It's like a pregnant woman excited about her baby who will soon be born—it's all she thinks about and all she talks about. Although she can't see the baby yet, she knows that the baby is there, and so she prepares the nursery to be ready for the baby, and looks forward to looking after her newborn child. She is looking forward to a glorious future with her new child, even though she has no idea exactly what the baby will look like or what they will be like—she just knows that her baby will be beautiful, and that the pain and discomfort caused by the baby growing inside of her will all be worth it.

Romans 8:18-25 NLT

¹⁸ Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager **hope**, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager **hope** for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this **hope** when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to **hope** for it. ²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

2. The fourth benefit—Christian character

Romans 5:3-4 NKJV

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:3-4 AMP

Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.

4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.

Romans 5:3-4 NLT

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. ⁴ And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

What are tribulations?

v 3 **And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations:** Jon Courson explains what the word “tribulations” means.

““Tribulations,” or *thlipsis* in Greek, means “crushings”—a word that describes the process of crushing an olive with heavy rocks in order to extract oil. Paul says we glory not only in what we're going to be, or who we are positionally, but also in the tribulations which happen constantly.

Why should we glory in times of crushing tribulations? Because it is during those times that we realize we can do nothing. You see, concerning a bad situation, as long as I can pull it off, I'll try to. If there's any way I can “finesse” a trial, I'll attempt to. My flesh is so present that if I can work anything out on my own, that's what I'll seek to do. But when trials arise wherein I can't do a thing, when the crushing rock is too great for me to bear, when I can't pull it off or work it out, that's true tribulation.

Nowhere was *thlipsis* more clearly illustrated than at Gethsemane, or literally, “the place of the olive press,” where Jesus Christ was pressed so heavily that He sweat great drops of blood. Unable to do anything else, He said, “Father, if it be possible, take this cup from Me, but Your will be done. I submit to You completely” (Matthew 26:39–42).”

v 3 **And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations:** The Christian life is not all roses, it will not always be easy. The Scriptures make it clear that the Christian will experience trials and **tribulations**. Paul knew better than most what it meant to go through tribulations.

2 Timothy 3:12-13 NLT

Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.¹² But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived.

Titus 2:11-13 NLT

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ

John 16:33 NLT

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

Why tribulations are beneficial for us

v 3 **Knowing that tribulation produces perseverance [endurance]:** These verses also make it clear that the trials God allows are actually good for us. The first benefit of trials is that of **perseverance** or **endurance**.

“Why are tribulations good? Because pressing and crushing works patience. They make me say, “Okay, Lord, I’ve tried to pull it off. I’ve tried to think it through. I’ve tried to make it happen—but now I just wait on You.”

And what does God say? “Good. I’ve been waiting for you to get to this point for some time. Now you’ll see what I can do.”” (Jon Courson)

“A runner must be stressed to gain endurance. Sailors must go to sea. Soldiers go to battle. For the Christian, tribulation is just part of our Christian life. We should not desire or hope for a tribulation-free Christian life, especially because:

- God uses tribulation wonderfully in our life
- God knows how much tribulation we can take, and He carefully measures the tribulation we face
- Those who are not Christians face tribulation also” (David Guzik)

“A Christian man should be willing to be tried; he should be pleased to let his religion be put to the test. ‘There,’ says he, ‘hammer away if you like.’ Do you want to be carried to heaven on a feather bed?” (Spurgeon)

“I’ve heard people advise others against praying for patience because God will then send them tribulations. If that’s the way patience comes then, ‘God, bring on the troubles.’ I need patience!” (Smith)

The importance of walking in the Spirit

However, just because a believer goes through tribulations doesn't mean that he will grow in perseverance. As someone said, "the same sun that melts the wax, also hardens the clay".

- If a believer responds to tribulation according to their old or sinful nature, they will grow bitter and hard against God.
- If a believer responds to tribulation according to their new or perfect nature, they will develop perseverance and their heart will grow even softer towards God.

Two believers can face the same tribulation, but have the opposite response; one may choose to trust God, and the other may get angry with God. *It all depends on where their heart is at—is it soft or hard, believing or unbelieving, trusting or not trusting, faithful or faithless, humble or proud, walking according to the Spirit or walking according to our sinful nature—the response to the trial reveals the state of the heart.*

Here are two warnings to check where our hearts are at so we don't waste the trial, meaning that we go through all the pain and suffering, but receive no benefit. Remember that God will keep giving us the same test until we pass it. Better to pass the test the first time, than waste our lives repeating the same lesson over and over again.

"Whatever virtues tribulation finds us in, it develops more fully. If anyone is carnal, weak, blind, wicked, irascible, haughty, and so forth, tribulation will make him more carnal, weak, blind, wicked and irritable. On the other hand, if one is spiritual, strong, wise, pious, gentle and humble, he will become more spiritual, powerful, wise, pious, gentle and humble."
(Martin Luther)

"'Tribulation works patience,' says the apostle. Naturally it is not so. Tribulation works impatience, and impatience misses the fruit of [approved character], and sours into hopelessness. Ask many who have buried a dear child, or have lost their wealth, or have suffered pain of body, and they will tell you that the natural result of affliction is to produce irritation against providence, rebellion against God, questioning, unbelief, petulance, and all sorts of evils. *But what a wonderful alteration takes place when the heart is renewed by the Holy Spirit!*" (Spurgeon)

"Our English word "tribulation" comes from a Latin word *tribulum*. In Paul's day, a *tribulum* was a heavy piece of timber with spikes in it, used for threshing the grain. The *tribulum* was drawn over the grain and it separated the wheat from the chaff. As we go through tribulations, and depend on God's grace, the trials only purify us and help to get rid of the chaff." (Warren Wiersbe)

Tribulations —> Perseverance —> Character —> Hope

This is the "production line" or "factory" that produces Christian character and hope, and it all starts with tribulations. Just like the crops won't grow without rain, so the Christian won't grow without trials.

v 3 **Perseverance:** **Perseverance** or endurance means to be able to patiently endure, to remain behind and not run away, and to be steadfast, dependable and constant. You're not a quitter when things get hard; instead you press in to God and find your strength in Him.

v 4 **Character**: **Character** refers to *genuine or proven character* (approved faith and tried integrity—AMP). A good example is where Paul refers to Timothy as a man of **proven character**—“But you know his **proven character**, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel” (Philippians 2:22). A believer with an **approved character** is a mature Christian, someone who has learned to trust God and persevere through the trials, someone who will trust and obey God even during the hard times.

v 4 **Hope**: **Hope** in the Scriptures always means trusting that God will give us what He has promised us in the future. If we use the example of travelling from Perth to Sydney, it makes sense that the closer we get to our destination (Sydney), the more certain we are that we will get there without breaking down or having an accident. So to, the further we travel down the road to becoming like Christ, it becomes increasingly obvious that God’s promises concerning us will come to pass.

Another way that **tribulations** cause **hope** to grow, is that the believer can look back and remember how God faithfully helped them in all their past tribulations. This gives them even greater confidence or **hope** that God will be faithful to help in future **tribulations**.

The correct attitude towards trials

“I would rather have God just sprinkle **perseverance** and **character** and **hope** on me as I sleep. I could wake up a much better Christian! But that isn’t God’s plan for me or for any Christian...

Therefore we say—soberly, reverently—we say about tribulation, “Lord, bring it on. I know you love me and carefully measure every trial and have a loving purpose to accomplish in every tribulation. Lord, I won’t seek trials and search out tribulation, but I won’t despise them or lose hope when they come. I trust Your love in everything You allow.” (David Guzik)

3. The fifth benefit—God’s love within

Romans 5:5 NKJV

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was given to us.

Romans 5:5 AMP

Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5 NLT

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

How to fully experience the love of God

v 5 **Now hope does not disappoint**: Why not? Because God will never let us down—He can’t, because He is by nature always faithful to keep His promises.

2 Timothy 2:13 AMP

If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself [go against His nature].

Therefore the believer's confident expectation that God will be faithful to be with them and support them in the tribulation is completely justified—*the believer will never be disappointed by God.*

Hebrews 13:5-6 AMP

Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] [Josh. 1:5.]

⁶ So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say, The Lord is my Helper; I will not be seized with alarm [I will not fear or dread or be terrified]. What can man do to me? [Ps. 27:1; 118:6.]

v 5 **Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was given to us:** What does it feel like to have the **[agape or unconditional] love of God poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who was given to us?** Joy, contentment, peace that passes understanding, a willingness to forgive, and a beautiful sense of belonging and acceptance. Remember that the fruit of the Spirit is love. Those who put their faith in God will not be disappointed; instead they will *experience* love that is beyond this world, joy that cannot be quenched, and an unshakeable sense of security and belonging because they understand what it means to have been adopted into God's family.

Like a scared little child naturally runs to their daddy and feels safe in his strong embrace, so the mature believer has learned to run to their Abba Father when **tribulations** come; there they feel the love and security that comes from being safe and secure in the hands that will never let you go.

Romans 8:15-16 NLT

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."

¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

John 10:27-29 NKJV

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

v 5 **Poured out:** The meaning of the Greek word translated as "**Poured out**" is: cause to flow out, cause to fully experience, to give abundantly. Humbly choosing to love, trust and obey God is how the believer opens the tap that allows God's love to overflow into their hearts—only then will the believer experience the love, joy, and peace that Christ promised. Unbelief turns the heart into a dry wilderness—empty, dry fruitless, and barren.

John 14:23-24, 27 NKJV

Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. ²⁴ Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me.

²⁷ "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

“Every Christian should have some experience of this, to have a deep inner awareness of God’s love for us.

The Apostle Paul’s logical arguments in Romans are devastating but the Book of Romans doesn’t lack emotion or passionate experiences with God. Paul wants us to think the right thoughts about God, but he also wants us to have the right experience with God—**the love of God ... poured out in our hearts.**” (David Guzik)

What does the love of God being poured out into our hearts look like practically?

Consider the example of Paul and Silas singing in the Philippian prison after being persecuted for the sake of the gospel.

Acts 16:22-25 NLT

A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them **stripped and beaten with wooden rods.** ²³ They were **severely beaten**, and then they were **thrown into prison.** The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn’t escape. ²⁴ So the jailer put them into the **inner dungeon** and **clamped their feet in the stocks.**

²⁵ Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns [songs of praise] to God, and the other prisoners were listening.

Truly, what God gives the world can’t take away. Paul and Silas were mature Christian men; therefore they didn’t complain, grumble, run away, or shut down when things got tough. They had gone through many tribulations, and had chosen to trust that God loved them and God was in control. Therefore, they developed perseverance, which in turn caused their character to become approved, and so they were filled with hope and love. *Over years of learning (choosing) to trust God they had come to this place of humble submission to and reliance on their Heavenly Father.*

The love of God ... poured out in our hearts—But what if this is not what the believer experiences?

v 5 **By the Holy Spirit who was given to us:** God communicates to us by His Holy Spirit. Love is a fruit of the Spirit. Although every believer has the Holy Spirit in them (see Romans 8:9), a believer will only be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) if they are walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). If the believer chooses to walk according to their sinful nature, then they will not be filled with the Holy Spirit and will instead grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). There are only two options for the believer; fullness of joy (life and peace) as they walk with Christ, or the horrible feeling of broken fellowship with God (death) as they live according to their sinful nature.

Romans 8:5-6 NLT

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.

Ephesians 5:18 NLT

Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30 NKJV

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Galatians 5:16-18 NLT

So I say, **let** the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses [not living by human effort or works].

Galatians 5:24-26 NLT

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed [past tense, at the moment of salvation] the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there [they no longer have any power over us—see Romans 6:6-14]. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives [let us walk in the Spirit]. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

All believers learn by experience, but some choose to learn faster than others. I would classify myself as a slow learner; over many years I've had to endure many unnecessary trials because I kept on failing to trust God. I wish that I hadn't been so stubborn, so self-reliant, so independent, so unbelieving, continuing to believe that I could live the Christian life by my own strength. I still have those sinful nature traits, but I've learned to run to and rely on my Heavenly Father much sooner when the trials come—less of me, more of God. Again, God will give the same or similar test, the same tribulation, until the believer learns to or chooses to put their trust in God and rely on His strength.

Jon Courson shares about his life: "Hope being the absolute expectation of coming good, the times in my life of which I am most ashamed are the times that, because I have lost hope, I've done or said things I wish I hadn't. I've embarrassed myself so many times because panic and sweat, anxiety and negativity have overcome me whenever I have lost hope that God was at work, that His timing was right, that He was in control. Why did I lose hope? Because I didn't have character. Why didn't I have character? Because I hadn't allowed the crushing times of trial and tribulation to produce perseverance in me."

"The love of God is like light to a blind eye until the Holy Ghost opens that eye ... may the Holy Spirit now be here in each one of us, to shed abroad the love of God in our hearts."
(Spurgeon)

Conclusion

There are three things a believer must learn to do when their heart is dry because they are living a life out of fellowship with God.

1. Confess and repent of their sin of independence, self-reliance, and unbelief
2. Confess and repent of their sin of independence, self-reliance, and unbelief
3. Confess and repent of their sin of independence, self-reliance, and unbelief

James 5:16 NKJV

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Matthew 3:8 NLT

Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God.

Hebrews 3:12 AMP

[Therefore beware] brethren, take care, lest there be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart [which refuses to cleave to, trust in, and rely on Him], leading you to turn away and desert or stand aloof from the living God.