



Accept Your Declaration of Righteousness Romans 5

A realistic look at a righteous person's life | Romans 5:1-5

- Righteous person's position (v. 1-2)
 - Jesus gives us peace with God
 - Jesus makes us stand in the grace of God
 - Jesus gives us the hope of the glory of God
 - Romans 8:22-23; Philippians 3:20-21

- Righteous person's journey (v. 3-5)
 - A certain joy in the journey. *"we also exult..."*
 - A clear purpose when the journey is hard—We know *tribulations* bring *perseverance*, which results in *proven character* which leads to *hope* that *does not disappoint*. James 1:2-4
 - A loving presence of God in His Holy Spirit.

How do people become righteous? | Romans 5:6-11

- Recognize our Problem: Without Christ we are "helpless," "ungodly," "sinners," under God's "wrath," "enemies" of God.

- Have faith in God's solution:
 - He seeks us in love while we remain in sin (v. 8)
"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners,"
 - Christ died for us to remove our sin, declare us righteous and save us from God's wrath. (v. 8-9)
"Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."
 - God changed (reconciled) us from being His enemy to gaining His salvation. (v. 10-11)
"For if while 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."

Every person is either still in Adam or changed to be in Christ. Are you still 'in Adam' or by faith 'in Christ?' | Romans 5:12-21

IN ADAM	IN CHRIST
I remain in sin and death (v. 11) Sin rules over my life (v. 14) I live under God's condemnation (v. 16,18) I cannot find success in keeping God's law (v. 20) I have no assurance of heaven because of my sin (v. 12)	I receive the free gift of God's grace which abounds (v. 15-16) God declares me righteous (justification) (v. 16) I gain an abundance of grace, and desire God's righteousness (v. 17-18) God's grace sets me free from the power of the law and my sin (v. 20) God's gift of grace and righteousness assures me eternal life in heaven (v. 21)
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>I will remain in this list by doing nothing.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>I can move to this list by trusting in Jesus death and resurrection as payment for my sin</i></p>

Digging Deeper

Romans 5 is a core passage of scripture that fully opens us to the spiritual transformation God seeks for every person. In this passage, we find God's design and purpose for those He saves and reveals the full extent of His work to save us. Justification is a key word in these scriptures. The simple definition of justification is to be declared righteous by God because, in love, God sent His Son Jesus to pay for the penalty of our sin. A holy God cannot just overlook our sin and say it does not matter. Somebody needs to help us because we are "helpless" Romans 5:6. God loves us so much and our sin is so bad that He paid the highest price He could pay to ransom us from the bondage of sin. Jesus' death was payment in full to forgive us and declare us righteous.

One reality of a righteous person is found in Romans 5:3-5. Some of the qualities of a righteous person's life includes tribulations, perseverance, proven character which leads us to hope that will never disappoint us. For many people, once you become a Christian you might expect life to go better. When suffering occurs, we are tempted to question the goodness of God or our own faith. But Paul reminds us that our life will include tribulations. But tribulations are not a dead end road. They open us to more qualities which causes us to have proven character and hope. When we go through "tribulations" we know we will not be disappointed. Disappointed means not put to shame. God does not waste our pain.

LifeGroup Discussion:

Below are a series of questions under select scriptures. Read the passages and dialogue on the answers.

Note that "tribulations" is plural, meaning that we will have more than one.

What does James 1:2-4, teach you about suffering and tribulation?

Read II Corinthians 4:7-10.

- In verse 7, we are just "earthen vessels" but what does God give us?
- In verses 8-9, we see some qualities of that suffering. But what does God say will not happen to us? This reveals His sovereign control over those times of suffering.
- In verse 10, what does suffering achieve for us with the life of Jesus?

Where have you experienced suffering? How have you seen the power of God to help and be able to grow in the life of Jesus?

In tribulation, we must then persevere. It means we have capacity to continue working, being patient, in the face of opposition or obstacles. What does James 1:12 tell you about perseverance?

No matter what we go through in this life, the righteousness of Jesus guarantees our final destination. Romans 5:2 says we will rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

That final glory means we will have a completed redemption. Read Romans 8:22-23.

What aspect of our redemption is still to be completed?

Read Philippians 3:20-21. **What will our final glory be like?**

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord!** Use the booklet in the seat rack called, "The Way to Connect with God" to help you understand who Jesus is and to help guide you through a prayer placing your faith in Him as Savior and Lord.
2. **Have more questions about God and who Jesus is?** Attend the **Alpha Course** beginning, February 5th at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby. This will help you understand the basics of the Christian faith and explore your questions, doubts or thoughts you have about the Gospel of Jesus. Learn more about the Alpha Course at calvarylife.org/alpha



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