

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > Temporal Blessings for God's Former Enemies
Romans 5:1-11

So...what are the consequences of being justified in God's sight by faith in Jesus? Paul is now ready to unfold what this means for the believer. He'll spend the next four chapters (5-8) disclosing the temporal blessings of God bestowed NOW on us. Like Abraham and David, we also gain access to these promises of God by faith and not by law.

While chapter four ends with death—the death of the Lord Jesus whereby He received the wrath of God for our sins and the deadness of Abraham and Sarah's bodies in terms of having the son of the promise—chapter five begins with reconciliation and peace with God and the hope of eternal life. God has demonstrated His love for His enemies by reconciling us to Himself by the cross of Jesus. Now that His righteous demands for justice have been satisfied, He is free to pour out the blessings He desires on His former enemies. And does He ever pour it on! It will take Paul four chapters to unfold all that this means.

1. Vv. 1-5: Overview of temporal blessings. These are a near-term fulfillment of God's promises and build confidence in the long-term fulfillment of His promise of glorified eternal life *to ourselves specifically* (cf. Acts 1:4-8). Notice all the words relating to things given by God to His former enemies:
 - a. Jesus as our Savior and our Access (“I am the door; I am the way”) - vv. 1-2
 - b. Justification by faith - v. 1
 - c. Peace with God - v. 1
 - d. Grace in which we stand - v. 2
 - e. Rejoicing in hope and in sufferings - vv. 2-3
 - f. Hope in the glory of God and in the completion of God's salvation in us - vv. 2-5
 - g. Knowledge - v. 3
 - h. Sufferings lead to perseverance which lead to character which leads to hope - vv. 3-4
 - i. God's love poured out into our hearts - v. 5
 - j. Holy Spirit - v. 5

2. Vv. 6-8: God's love demonstrated to and in His former enemies. What kind of love is this? Paul makes it clear that God's love is His own kind of love and is totally unlike the love we have. We have seen God's alien righteousness and now we see His alien love!

3. Vv. 9-11: The focus shifts now from present (temporal) to future (eternal). Once justified and reconciled through the death of Jesus, we are now looking forward to being saved from His wrath on the day of His wrath (cf. 2:5-11,16).