

SERMON NOTES

Date: March 6, 2016

Title: Blessed Beyond Measure

Text: Romans 5:1-11

Big Idea: Not only does God freely justify sinners by faith alone, he also pours out his blessings on those he graciously justifies.

I. Introduction

The doctrine of justification by faith alone sounds wonderful, but does it really work? Does it make any practical difference in the daily life of those who believe?

II. Five Blessings of Justification by Faith

1. Peace with God (v. 1)

2. Access to a Gracious Standing Before God (v. 2a)

3. Hope of the Glory of God (v. 2b)

4. Joy in Suffering (vs. 3-5)

5. Security in Salvation (vs. 6-11)

III. Conclusion

Justification by faith alone isn't a gimmick. It really works! It provides peace with God, access to a gracious standing before him, hope of heaven, joy in suffering, and it comes with a lifetime guarantee. Though we sometimes fail, it will never fail, because God never fails!

1. Why might some people conclude that justification by faith alone is too good to be true? Why is it both good and true?
2. What is the difference between peace *with* God and the peace *of* God? Why is it important to understand them in the right order?
3. Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13. How does this story illustrate the way justification gives us a gracious standing before God in Christ Jesus?
4. Describe the difference between the world's view of hope and biblical hope.
5. How does the hope of the glory of God help you practically endure earthly uncertainty?
6. What is God's purpose for allowing suffering in a believer's life?
7. Think of one way you are suffering. What does endurance practically look like? How does God want to shape your character through this? How does this ultimately produce hope and confidence in God's love for you?
8. Write a prayer expressing your joy for what God is accomplishing in your life in the midst of suffering.
9. Why is a believer's salvation completely secure in Christ according to vs. 6-11?
10. What things might tempt you to question your eternal security? What doubts do you currently have? How does Paul's teaching address your doubts?