

God's Powerful Solution for Man's Great Need
March 30, 2008—Jerry Cisar

Text: Romans 5:1

I. Mankind's Core Problem has been Solved!

- A. The elemental trouble with humanity, the most foundational problem that we all share, is *hostility with God*.
- a) **expressed**

 - b) **experienced**

 - c) **exposed**

 - d) **exists**
- B. God broke into this cycle of hostility
- C. We have peace with God.
- 2 Corinthians 5:19 *“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.”*

God is not mad at you anymore! God is not angry with you any more. Yes you deserve it...that is not the question...but God has reconciled us.

II. How did God break the cycle of hostility?

- A. **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith...”**
- i. Chapters 1:18-3:20 The need for justification

ii. Chapter 3:21-26 The power of the Gospel

iii. Chapter 4 Justification is about God justifying the wicked.

B. We understand justification.

i. Children understand it.

ii. Adults understand it.

C. We are justified ***through our Lord Jesus Christ.***

III. Four effects that peace with God means for your daily life.

A. We now have access to God.

■ Hebrews 4:16

■ Hebrews 10:19-22

B. We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. (vs. 2)

Christians ought to be the happiest people in the world because we are going to the happiest

place in the universe.

C. We also rejoice in our sufferings. (vs. 3)

D. We rejoice in God through Jesus Christ. (vs. 10)

John Stott: *“It seems clear from this paragraph, then, that the major mark of justified believers is joy, especially joy in God Himself. We should be the most positive people in the world. For the new community of Jesus Christ is characterized not by a self-centered triumphalism but by a God-centered worship.”*

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we “know” about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- How does mankind at large express its hostility with God? What ways have you expressed your hatred toward God?
- What ways does mankind's hostility with God effect our experience of relationship with God? Does this still affect Christians?
- Is this hostility real or made up? Is there a real hostility with God?
- What is justification? How can you explain the concept in every day life...ways we justify ourselves? How has God justified us as revealed in the Gospel.
- What do you think Jerry meant when he said, *“If the Gospel is a nuclear power plant, justification is the nuclear reactor”*?
- What does it mean to have peace with God, and access by faith into this grace, as Romans 5:1,2 state?
- How would it change your life to remember this truth every day?
- How should the truth of justification cause Christians to be a people filled with joy in every circumstance?
- What most effected you from this message, and how will you attempt to apply and remember it?