

Sworn Enemies

Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Romans 5:1

Discover the Context Romans 5



In today's verse Paul says believers are *declared righteous*. The theological word for this is *justified*. It is the judicial act of God by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ and treats them as if they were righteous in the eyes of the law. This is one huge thing that sets Christianity apart from all other religions. We don't try to become righteous or good on our own, rather we are declared righteous because of what Jesus has done for us.

- ▶ Faith – Romans 3:28
- ▶ No boasting – Romans 3:27
- ▶ Trusting in Jesus – Galatians 2:16
- ▶ Grace – Romans 3:23-24



“Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world—namely that a righteousness that resides with a Person in heaven should justify me, a sinner on earth.”
~ John Bunyan
(1628-1688)

Understanding our salvation matters. A lot.

So we're going to spend all of this week digging into Romans 5 where Paul explains what we're saved from, how we're saved, and what Jesus did to pull it off.

But first, let me ask a question. Have you ever seen two people rub each other the wrong way? So much so that they become enemies, and the longer it goes the more entrenched they become in their animosity. Every little offense becomes one more reason on a big pile of unforgivable insults. Any attempt to reconcile or fix things is met with suspicion, and it seems that the two are doomed to remain adversaries.

Does this remind you of anyone at camp this summer?

It should. It's me. It's you. It's all of us with God. And Paul opens Romans 5 by saying we're not doomed to remain enemies—reconciliation with God is possible.

Paul begins by looking at the end. Strange, I know, but kind of helpful. The end result of our salvation is that we have peace with God.

This is a big deal because we've all made the dumbest exchange ever by trading the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:21-25); we are all sinners by nature and by choice (Romans 3). Consequently God's wrath is upon us (Romans 1:18). He's angry at us with good cause. We're stained. We're guilty. We're sworn enemies with God our creator.

Messy and hopeless.

And this is exactly what makes Romans 5:1 and the message of our salvation so beautiful and awesome. God takes stained, guilty enemies and declares us righteous. Seriously! When we put our faith in Jesus, he proclaims us unstained, not-guilty, and friends.

Here's the message of the gospel: Sworn enemies can live in peace because we have a mediator who died and rose again to make it happen. [JCR]