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Wednesday GEL Group ONLINE

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As we have seen in the previous studies, throughout his preaching of the good news, Paul invites all people, Jew and Gentile alike, to believe in Christ and enter into this new relationship. We have also explored Paul's teaching on what it means to be justified by faith. As we will see with this study, Paul's attention in chapter 5 is focused on what comes after one's justification by faith. Over the next three chapters, Paul's focus is on two themes. Firstly, the certainty we have in Christ that our justification will lead to final salvation, and, secondly, the new identity we have in Christ.

Let's now read Romans 5:1-11. Considering this is the week of Easter as well, it may certainly have even greater appeal to us at this time.

1. If you were to write a label or a heading for these eleven verses, what would you put? Try not to copy what may be in your Bible but think about what you might write. It can be a challenge because Paul mentions so many different topics.
2. In verses 1-4, what does the term 'justified' mean?
3. One of the wonderful results we have is our 'Peace with God'. Our English word 'peace,' in keeping with the secular Greek use of the word '*eirene*,' can often have a negative sense which means the absence of hostility. However, the Old Testament and Jewish conception of peace '*shalom*,' is much more positive connotating a general sense of well-being and harmony. Let's note the Old Testament example in Isaiah 32:17-18.
4. The second wonderful result is how our justification provides "access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." What do you think this means?
5. Is it not a surprise to you that God's free gift of grace does not stop when we become Christians? It continues to be poured out on us so much that we can be said to live in a constant state of grace. Let's discuss this.

6. Many of us will be rejected by others for having faith in Jesus Christ. What does Paul share about this in verse 3 and 4?
  
7. What does Paul say in verse 5? Let's read other passages which also speaks about this:  
Psalm 22:5; 25; Isaiah 28:16
  
8. How can we be sure of this? What two basic reasons does Paul provide for this in verses 5-10? How is this described?
  
9. Isn't it wonderful how God doesn't show love in bits and pieces. He *pours* out his love into our hearts! The verb used to describe the 'pouring out' is similar to what was written in Acts 2:17-18. What are the similarities here?
  
10. In verses 9-11, what is the next reason for why we have hope? Does being saved come after we are justified or before? What does Paul also say in Romans 13:11; 1 Corinthians 3:15; 5:5; Philippians 2:12?
  
11. What does peace and hope mean to you? If someone asked you what you hope for in life, what are some of the ways we can answer that question based on these words from Paul's letter?
  
12. Let's spend some time in prayer and sharing together.