

# Alton Baptist Church e-Service 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

## Our Justification only by Grace through Faith

Welcome to this e-Service as we spend time worshipping the Lord recognising that He is faithful, loving and worthy of our trust in Him. We are thankful that He is a firm foundation on which we can build our lives so that in these uncertain times it gives **hope** that is confirmed in His Word.

1 Timothy 4:9-10

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance, that we have put our **hope** in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe.

**Song:** My hope is built on nothing less

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x42r53W5wWY>

On Christ the solid rock I stand – all other ground is sinking sand.

**Prayer:**

Father we praise and thank you that we can rest on your unchanging grace and that in the storms of life our anchor is firm when we trust and walk with you. We ask for your forgiveness when we fail to seek your will for our lives and be obedient to your commands. We pray that as we spend time now in your presence that you will speak to us by the power of your Holy Spirit to offer you a fragrant offering of worship that glorifies you. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

**Song:** Amazing Grace

With so many people being fearful during these uncertain times it is encouraging in this hymn to acknowledge that grace can relieve our fears and with that we can pray for those feeling insecure and vulnerable. This version draws us together from around the world in a well-loved song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BA7pdABvpnc>

### **Intercessory Prayer:**

Father we thank you that around the world this day there will be Christians singing and worshipping you. We rejoice that you are a faithful God who is full of grace and love who longs to hear our prayers.

In the quietness let us bring before the Lord those who are fearful and suffering emotionally because of the circumstances they find themselves in as a result of this pandemic.

Let us remember those in government, the scientists and medical people who are seeking treatments and a vaccine to fight this virus.

We pray for parents who feel under pressure as they care for their children.

We ask for your comfort for those who are lonely or who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

We lift those who need your healing touch as they battle to overcome health issues.

Take time to individually bring your own personal petitions and requests to the Lord,

We pray for those around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Father we praise you that we can bring our petitions and requests in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen

**Song:** Speak, O Lord

One of the verses says: And by **grace** we'll stand on Your promises  
And by **faith** we will walk As you walk with us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubRIJj8xkds>

### **Reading: Romans 5**

1 Therefore, since we have been **justified** through **faith**, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained **access** by **faith** into this **grace** in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that *suffering* produces perseverance; perseverance, **character** and **character, hope**. 5 And **hope** does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. . . . 9 Since we have now been **justified** by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! . . . 17 For if, by the trespass of one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of **grace** and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Consequently, just as the result of one

trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was **justification** that brings life for all men. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will be made righteous. 20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, **grace** increased all the more, so that just as sin reigned in death, so also **grace** might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Prayer:**

Father speak to us through your Word that we might fully grasp the wonder of our justification through your grace that we might have faith in you. That through faith we are saved from our sin and have the promise of eternal life. Amen

Romans chapter 5 gives us an insight into the blessings of justification, the significance of grace that leads us to faith in Christ Jesus. Knowledge of these basic truths from the Bible underpins our walk with the Lord and enables us to more faithfully proclaim the gospel message.

What does justification mean to a believer? Justification is freedom from the penalty of sin on the grounds of Christ's righteousness and His shed blood on the cross. Those who believe in Jesus as the Son of God and accept Him into their lives are, "**made right in God's sight**" (Living Bible Rom 5: 1). He declares that we are **righteous**. With this righteousness the believer receives the following blessings.

**Peace with God.** (V 1) because we are declared righteous we receive **peace** as confirmed in Isaiah 32: 17 "The fruit of righteousness will be **peace**; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever." This is real **peace** as Jesus said John 14: 27 "**Peace** I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." How relevant this blessing is in these troubled times in which we are living.

**Access to God.** (V 2a), states "we have gained **access**". Ephesians 2: 18 "For through Him we have **access** to the Father by one Spirit." Isn't this amazing that we who are sinners can have **access** to God the Father the creator of heaven and earth. Do we take full advantage of this through prayer and the reading of the Bible?

**Glorious Hope.** (V 2b) “And we rejoice in the **hope** of the glory of God.” Also in verse 5, “And **hope** does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His **love** into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” This again is a wonderful blessing. Hope energises us and gives purpose to our lives. It is sad to see people who have no hope in their lives as they are dejected and often depressed. Our hope has a firm foundation because it is built of God’s **love**.

**Christian Character.** Character is mentioned in verse 4. But what is character? The dictionary definition is, “a description of a person’s qualities,” it also mentions moral strength. We see the **character** of a person in the way they face the difficulties in life. Verse 3 states that we will experience *suffering* but we are to rejoice in it as it “produces in us perseverance, **character** that gives us hope.” We have this confidence because we can trust in God’s unfailing love. Rom. 8: 35, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or sword? ... 39 neither height nor depth, not anything in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The character of a Christian is based on the love of Jesus that will carry them through the trials of life.

**Salvation from God’s wrath.** (V 9) “Since we have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through Him!” 1 Thessalonians: 10 “Jesus who rescues us from the coming wrath.” We need to be aware that that God’s wrath is real as he will judge us and for those who do not repent and turn to Him will experience His wrath. But those who are justified by His blood will not experience His wrath; what a blessing!

**Reconciliation with God.** (V 11) “we have now received reconciliation.” Reconciliation is wonderful because it establishes a relationship, we are brought back into fellowship with God.

Reflect for a moment of these incredible blessings that come from justification.

We move on to consider the significance of **grace**.

Let us listen to the song: Only by Grace can we enter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hv72Q23llp0>

What is grace? It is God's favour being bestowed. Verse 17, "how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of **grace** and the gift of righteousness." It is abundant favour being shown to us. We are also told in verse 2 that it is "into this **grace** we now stand."

In verse 20 we note the protective influence of **grace** protecting us from sin. "But where sin increased, **grace** increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also **grace** might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 3: 23 - 24 confirms our justification through **grace**. "23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by His **grace** through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

So through justification and grace we come to faith in Jesus Christ.

What is faith? The dictionary gives the following explanation of faith. Faith is reliance or trust, belief in religious doctrines such as affect character and conduct, spiritual appreciation of divine truth apart from proof and conviction based on hearing. Faith is the practical outworking of justification and grace in our daily walk with the Lord. Faith gives us assurance. Hebrews 11: 1 "Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Faith is essential in our relationship with God. Hebrews 11: 6 "And without **faith** it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him." It is good to read the whole of chapter 11 as it gives wonderful examples of people and their walk of faith.

There is so much in Romans 5 but we have concentrated on the practical blessings that arise from justification the joy of having God's abundant grace in our lives that forms the basis of faith whereby we can have a relationship with our heavenly Father. These truths can be shared with others to bring them to faith, Romans 10: 17 "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." It is indeed wonderful grace that gives what we don't deserve.

### **Prayer**

Thank you Father for your Word of truth. It gives us so much hope and encouragement in these difficult times. Give us the courage to share it with others so that they can come to faith in you.

**Song:** Wonderful Grace

All that I have I lay at the feet of the Wonderful Saviour who loves me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdugliaCXUk>

**Blessing** The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you now and for evermore.  
Amen