

**I. Introduction.**

- A. When we accept Christ, God justifies us ...he declares us righteous ...he looks upon us as though we've never sinned.**
- B. When we accept Christ, God gives us credit for Christ's righteousness; when God looks at us he doesn't see the sinners we are, he sees the perfect righteousness of Christ.**
- C. Being justified has some great benefits.**

**II. Five Reasons to Rejoice in our Justification.**

- A. We have peace with God (v.1,2).**
  - 1. This peace is possible because of God's grace.**
  - 2. This peace is possible because of Christ's death.**
  - 3. This peace becomes a reality through faith in Christ.**
- B. We have the hope of the glory of God (v.2).**
  - 1. This refers to our hope that one day we will be like the glorified Christ (see Tit. 2:13 and 1 John 3:2,3).**
  - 2. When Jesus returns all who are faithful to him will receive a glorified body (see Phil. 3:21).**
- C. We can rejoice in our sufferings (v.3,4).**
  - 1. Everyone suffers ...suffering happens ...it's a part of life on this fallen planet.**
  - 2. Suffering can make us better followers of Christ (see James 1:2-4).**
  - 3. To endure life's trials and tribulations we need to deal with them God's way – trust and obey.**
  - 4. In all things God works for the good of those who love – trust and obey – him (Rom. 8:28).**
- D. We can love others as God loves us (v.5).**
  - 1. Jesus wants us to love one another like he loves us; he wants us to love unconditionally.**
  - 2. Jesus demonstrated his unconditional love for us by dying for us on a cross (v.6-8).**
  - 3. To love hard to love people we must see them the way Jesus sees them and rely on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.**
- E. We will be spared from God's wrath (v.9-11).**
  - 1. Those who continue to neglect or reject God will experience God's wrath.**
  - 2. Those who know Christ and persevere in the faith will real eternal life (see Gal. 6:7-9).**