

January 26, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Rom. 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)*

We've been looking quite a bit at the grace that we receive from the atonement of Christ. And we also looked at the justification of His blood that covers us. Paul uses a very familiar word here: therefore. Every time I see this word, I ask myself, "what is it there for?" Paul had just stated in **Rom. 4:18-25** *Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (NIV) - Therefore!* Since we have been justified, we have peace (the absence of judgment) with God through the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. This peace has been credited to us as righteousness. This is the only reason we can enter into the Holy of Holies. What a peace that passes all understanding. And what does this then do for us? It gives us freedom to live in the peace and justification of our LORD. He's not mad at you. He is not disappointed in you. He sees you as complete and holy. Folks, there is nothing more freeing than this!

Dear LORD, help us to walk in Your freedom and peace. You have done all that we needed to be made right and whole and just with You. You love us so much that it is hard to comprehend it sometimes. Thank You LORD! In Jesus Name, Amen