

**March 27, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

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

Again, Paul uses one of his favorite terms: therefore. What's it there for? Let's look at verse **4:25** ***He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. (NIV)*** Since Christ did this for us, we have been justified through our faith in the work of redemption on the cross. We have been justified and declared 'just.' What an amazing thought to think that even though we have sinned, we are now as clean as snow, and we are held as justified in the presence of the only true and just One; the LORD Himself.

This realization should bring us great peace in our lives. The LORD sees us as absolutely clean and whole and made right with Him. He has set us free. I remember as a young boy, we would play a game called freeze tag. If you were touched by the person who was 'it', you had to freeze in your tracks. The object was for the tagger, to tag everyone and freeze them all. If you were frozen, someone who was not the tagger could tag you and unfreeze you. You were then free to run and stay away from the tagger. Well beloved, we were frozen in our sin and had no hope until the One Who had never sinned came to take our place. He chose to take our sin so that we could be set free. And because of this, we have peace with God. We were once enemies of the LORD, but now we have been made His children and He is our Father. This is true redemption, and we are justified by our faith in Him. And now we have His peace that passes all of our understanding.

**Dear LORD, thank You that You have justified us by the blood of Your Son. You have set us free to love like You love. You have given us peace with You and peace in this life. We don't have to live as those who have no hope. In Jesus Name, Amen**