

Deacon's Beacons

July 1, 2019

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

It is so much fun to have God play games with you. I had a gentleman asking me just yesterday about being saved by works. He believes that he was taught as a child that you can earn salvation. I referenced this very section of Romans as I explained to him that that was just not so. Faith is a gift and salvation comes through faith so you cannot earn salvation. I also explained to him that the Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church signed an agreement in 1999 that states that we believe in justification by faith and not by works. Several other Reformation Tradition denominations have also signed the document. But – and this is a very big but – you can lose your salvation. In other words, you can only be saved through faith but then you are required to live in a certain way – to do certain “works” if you will – in order to live out your faith. So you cannot earn salvation but you can lose it by not acting appropriately. That is what St. James means when he talks about the faith that underlies our works.

Go raibh síocháin Chríost a bheith in éineacht leat.

Deacon Mike