

Romans

Romans Chapter Five

Romans 5:6-8

December 27, 2001

This is lesson number 21 in our exposition of the Book of Romans.

The Theme of the Letter

Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ**, for it is the **power** of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the **righteousness of God** is **revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’ ” Romans 1:16-17

Title: “Christ Died For the Ungodly”

Read 5:1-11

Our lesson today is **Romans 5:6-8**

After stating one of the best definitions of Christianity to be found in the Bible {4:23-25}, Paul spends one of his “Therefore’s,” verse 1.

“Therefore having been justified by faith...”

Because we know that God did it - justification is by grace through faith alone, because:

“by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight...” 3:29

Any system of human response becomes “deeds of the law.”

then, *we have peace with God* {no more war with God};

then, *we have access by faith* to God;

and then we rejoice in the **hope** that we shall be glorified;
{Bible hope is not a “maybe so”}

...through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Justified! We have been saved!
Justification is a one time event!
Justification is the sovereign act of God.

The guilty sinner, “dead in trespasses and sin” - passive - until the Holy Spirit, through the means of the Gospel, convicts the sinner of his or her condemnation and Christ is revealed in their heart.

2 Corinthians 4: 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face {person} of Jesus Christ.

Regeneration; the new birth, is a starting over.
Is it really possible to start over? Yes!

Then Paul makes a startling statement;
Something even more remarkable!

More remarkable than peace, access, and hope? Yes!

“And not only that ...” 3-4-5 - “but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance {endurance} ...”

Just how **remarkable** is that?

Do we whine and murmur and have thoughts that somehow God is not fair? No!
we also glory in tribulations! Why?

We are being saved! Sanctified! A lifetime process.

Sanctification necessarily **results** from justification.

If your life and mine is not characterized by the **process** of sanctification, we should seek to: *“make your calling and election sure.”*

Check the context of 1 Peter 1:10; the doctrine of sanctification is not an isolated curiosity in the Bible; it is an essential truth.

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Many times I have criticized the Baptist slogan:

“Once saved, always saved.”

Is that true?

It is only true if salvation is correctly defined, and the way of life is consistent with “having been justified,” only then is the statement is true.

In my experience “Once saved, always saved.” is used to excuse someone who one time made a “decision,” under the emotional influence of some preacher begging him to “let Jesus save you,” so he walks an aisle and is given a false sense of security and returns to a life characterized by indifference to God and His church.

Picture in your mind some poor mother grieving over a son who is caught up in drugs and crime, and has shown no interest in Jesus Christ for many years is somehow conformed with: “Well I know he is saved, because ‘Once Saved, Always Saved.’ ”

The opposite of love is not “hate,” it is indifference!

So usually the subjects mother and friends defends the indifference and says,
“Once saved, always saved.”

I tell you that hell is going to be full of Baptists who have been deceived into trusting in their “decision.”

What I am preaching is not very “user friendly” but I am telling you the truth!

How do you describe a genuine believer? Jesus said:

Matthew 10:22 “But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

Cf. Romans 8:5-8

The doctrine is “Perseverance of the Saints.”

We saw that believers, even under fiery trial, because of this sure hope, will endure.

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And we saw that tribulation not only produces {endurance} patience, but in turn endurance leads to a deeper grasp of this hope in “approvedness,” character.

What begins with sure hope produces a more sure hope.

And “approvedness” produces the kind of **hope** that does not disappoint.

Where do you find the proof that God loves you?

But they say, “Smile God loves you.” Smile Esau! Smile Pharaoh!
There surely was a “bumper sticker” on Noah’s Ark that said:
“Smile God loves you.”

The **Doctrine of the Holy Spirit** is introduced for the first time in Romans 5:6.

So again, how do we know that God loves us?

The reason is that the:

“love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit”

Now in verses 6-7-8, the Apostle says more about the foundation of this sure hope.

We know that God loves us because when we were **without strength**, powerless, helpless, totally unable to rescue ourselves from the effects of Adam’s sin, Christ, motivated by sovereign love, and not by any human response, died for the ungodly.

We must go back to the doctrine of the **wrath of God**.

In earlier lessons we have shown that the Gospel message must be framed by the wrath of God. Notice that in Chapter One, as soon as the Apostle states the theme of this greatest of all letters {1:16-17}, he immediately introduces the **wrath of God** against all ungodliness and unrighteousness.

Any preacher who will not preach about sin and the wrath of God is ashamed of the Gospel. The most popular preacher in America today will not say the word sin and he will not say that Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved!

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Furthermore, I will be so bold as to say that any preacher who will not preach about sin and the wrath of God does not know the Gospel! The Gospel is not, “make a decision and let Jesus save you.” The Gospel is not “God has done all He can do and now it’s up to you.” The Gospel is not “Let Jesus come into your heart.” The Gospel is not “Have a relationship with God.”

The Gospel is the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus imputed freely by His grace to the ungodly sinner.

Sinner, you are not the first cause of your being justified, because you are “without strength!”

We who preach the wrath of God are sometimes accused of teaching that God the Father holds the sinner under His wrath. And Jesus, who shed His blood for sinners, pleads with the Father on behalf of sinners.

That false notion would have the Father and the Son with a different purpose. It was God the Father who sent His Son into the world to save sinners. There is no conflict in the Godhead. It was Jesus who said,

“And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” John 8:29

verse 6:

“For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Are you one for whom Christ died? Ungodly, sinner, an enemy of God?

Are you “without strength?”

You must see that salvation is entirely of God.

Do we grasp how helpless we are without the mercy of God?

You know the story of Jonah and the great fish that God prepared that swallowed Jonah.

Jonah learned **that salvation is entirely of God.**

Jonah was as good as dead in the belly of a great fish that God had prepared. Jonah was “without strength” when he cried out:

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“Salvation is of the LORD!”

***“So the LORD spoke to the fish,
and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”*** Jonah 2:9b-10

Do you know what Jonah learned?

***For when we were without strength, in due time
Christ died for the ungodly.***

Jesus, the eternal Son of God, was as a Lamb slain before the foundation of the world. He was in the beginning with God and the Word is God, the *logos*, the Word.

...in due time, The Word became flesh and tabernacled among us.

...in due time, He lay aside the glory that He had with the Father before the world was.

...in due time, He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant.

...in due time, He was delivered up because of our offenses.

...in due time, He was raised up because of our justification. {4:25}

Is this what the Bible teaches?

Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him {the dragon}, whose names **have not** been written in the Book of Life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world**. 9 If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. . . .

John 1:14 **And the word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, **O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

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Philippians 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Galatians 4:4 But when the **fullness of the time** had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up

in due time, in due time, in due time

“He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied.”

Revelation 21:22 But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24 **And the nations of those who are saved** shall walk in its light,

“For when we were without strength, in due time, Christ died for the ungodly”

Christ died for those who had a lack of reverence towards God, the “ungodly.”

Is there anything or anyone that you are willing to die for?

Don't be too quick to make a boast about your bravery.

“The idea here is that to die is a thing to which men are of all things most averse.”

Haldane

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Verse 7:

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die....”

“... yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.”

There seems to be a distinction between “righteous” and “good.”

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Do not make overmuch of this difference.

Dikaios “righteous” means “right” or “just;” doing all that the law requires.
Agathos “good” is one who is “benevolent,” “kind,” and “generous.”

The “righteous” man does what he ought and gives everyone his due.

The “good” man does as much as he can, and proves his moral quality by promoting the well-being of all those with whom he has to do.

dikaios, “righteous” only expresses a relation that is “right” or “just.”

agathos, “good” always includes a corresponding beneficent relation of the parties involved.

A “righteous” person is someone we respect. It is rare that anyone would give his life for someone they merely respect. But the “good” man is one who is loved and occasionally someone will die for one he loves. The soldier gives his life for his buddies, the parent for a child. But the contrast is the **quality** of God’s love as seen in that Christ died for us while we were still in rebellion and hating Him.

As I said, don’t make overmuch of the difference between a “righteous” man and a “good” man or you will miss the point here that in the experience of men it is extremely rare to find someone who would die even for a righteous man or a good man. But Christ died for those who despised His love even before God arrested their sinful hearts.

Verse 8:

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.”

The greatest manifestation of love that the world has ever seen or ever will see is God’s own love for sinners.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Isaiah 53:5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

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John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Those who can not see their **ungodly** condition and that they are sinners exclude themselves from any interest in the death of Jesus

Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

Lloyd-Jones: You can soon discover whether a man really believes in God or not. Tell him that Jesus said:

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Tell them about the wrath of God.

Preach Romans Chapter One and Chapter Nine, wrath and divine election, and the man or woman full of pride and self will reject God.

Tell them that America needs to repent because as a nation we have despised the Word of God. Tell them that:

On a national level: we have legalized abortion and killed millions and millions of babies for convenience; we have virtually removed God from any public notice; we have tacitly accepted the media onslaught to make homosexuality an acceptable lifestyle; we have removed prayer from public schools, our public schools are devoted to the false religion of humanistic evolution; and perhaps the worst failure on the part of many Christians is their reluctance to stand for the unique claims of Jesus Christ as the only way to God. It is one thing to defend freedom of religion. It is a dangerous and damning thing to call Jesus a liar by claiming that all religions equally valid!

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The person who does not believe they are “without strength,” but thinks they are “pretty good,” and certainly not deserving of the wrath of God will not be interested in a Christ who died for the ungodly.

Read 5:6-8

Is anyone here “without strength?”

Is anyone here “ungodly?”

Is anyone here a sinner?

Does anyone here need a Savior?

If the Word of God is reaching your heart, you may need to seek counsel with an elder. We do not have any sacramental power, but we can direct your concern to the Word of God and we can pray with you.

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Our next study in Romans will be 5: 9-11 {D.V.}