

Subject: *Our Secure Position in Christ*

Scripture: *Romans 5:1-11*

In car racing every driver wants to start in the best possible position, but what matters most is where you finish. In salvation it's a lot different. The position where you start is identical to the position where you finish. The good news is that you begin in Christ and you finish in Christ. There is nothing that can knock you out of position.

There is a logical order in Romans. First, we see that all people are sinners and guilty before God. Next, we see that God sent His Son to forgive our sins and make us right with Him. The Bible says that God justifies us (declares that we are righteous in His sight). He justifies us by faith and credits us with the righteousness of His Son. Our text answers the question if we can ever lose the blessings we have in Christ. It teaches that believers are secure in Christ.

The key word in Romans 5:1 is "therefore" and it takes us back to what Paul said about being justified by faith. In Christ we are justified ("being justified"). This is our present position, and it's not based on something that may happen, but something that has happened. It is a one-time legal declaration by God with lasting results. Our position of being justified by faith in Christ is eternal. Paul then describes the blessings of our secure position in Christ.

1. PEACE WITH GOD

Being justified, we have (present tense) peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We were once rebels and enemies, but now are reconciled to God through Christ. This is a real peace and a lasting peace. Sometimes in war enemies declare a "cease fire," but after a while they launch attacks and the war resumes. Not so with God. We have peace with God and that can never change. The Bible says we are "reconciled to God" (vs. 10).

There is an objective peace (fact) and a subjective peace (feeling). This is an objective peace or reality rather than a subjective peace or feeling. The war between us and God is over. Our peace with God came through Christ's death and His shed blood.

Colossians 1:21-22 ²¹ *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled* ²² *In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 ¹⁸ *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;* ¹⁹ *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.* ²¹ *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

2. STANDING IN GOD'S GRACE

The word "access" is found only two other times in the NT (Eph. 2:18; 3:12), and it refers specifically to the believer's access to God through Christ. Access to God was thought to be off limits to sinners. In the OT the high priest was the only person who had direct access into God's presence and that was on the Day of Atonement. All that was a picture of what Jesus

did for us. He entered into God's presence to make a way for us to enter. It is by grace we have access. It is through faith we come. It is by His blood we enter.

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly (with freedom) unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 10:19-22 ¹⁹ *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,* ²⁰ *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;* ²¹ *And having an high priest over the house of God;* ²² *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

We stand in this grace. This refers to a permanent standing or position before God.

3. HOPE OF GOD'S GLORY

We sometimes speak of hope as a wish or something that would happen, but the Bible word "hope" is certain. It is sure to take place, even though it has not happened yet. The believer's hope is to share in the very glory of God. Paul has mentioned the glory of God a few times already in this great letter.

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

In Romans 2:7 and 10, glory is the first thing mentioned in the future of the saved person.

We are going to a place of glory. We will have a glorified body and spirit. And we will see the glory of God. It's as sure as if we were already there. Paul will come back to this again.

Romans 8:16-18 ¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:* ¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* ¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Romans 8:30 *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

In Ephesians 2:12, the Bible says that before salvation we had no hope. We were hope-less, but now we have a great hope, a living hope. Our hope is not tied to this present world. It is tied to Christ and the things He has in store for us. We're living for another world.

1 Corinthians 15:19 *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

4. RECEIVING GOD'S LOVE

Even though we suffer "tribulations" (pressures) now, we glory in them. This does not refer to the normal pressures of everyday life, but to the troubles that come because we are living for Christ. **John 16:33** *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

We can glory in troubles because we know they work patience (endurance, perseverance) and experience (proven character) and hope that does not disappoint. The love of God has been shed abroad (lavishly poured out, overflowing) by the Holy Spirit who is given to us. This is the first mention in Romans of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of a Christian. Paul is now speaking about the inner awareness of God's love. This is powerful evidence that believers have the assurance that we are loved by God and belong to Him.

God not only poured His love into us by His Spirit, He also proved His love for us by His Son. God loved us when we could not help ourselves (without strength = helpless). We were spiritually dead and could not do anything, so God did everything for us. "I was sinking deep in sin far from the peaceful shore, but love lifted me."

God loved us when we were unlovely. Maybe someone would die for a righteous person or for a good person. We were neither righteous nor good, but God demonstrated His love for us because, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God gave us a picture of His great love for sinners when Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him and He hung between two thieves and saved one of them as he was dying.

Nothing can change God's love for us. He could never love us any more or any less. His love is not based on what we do or don't do. His love is based on who He is, not on who we are. We may change, but He won't.

5. ESCAPE FROM GOD'S WRATH

In verses 9-10, Paul uses those two words "much more." If we are justified by Christ's blood or death on the cross, how much more shall we be saved from future wrath through Him. If He died for us when we were sinners, surely He will spare us from His wrath now that we are sons. If He died for us and reconciled us when we were enemies, surely He will save us by His life. If He died to save us, surely He is able to keep us.

Here we see that Jesus died not just as a sacrifice that might save us. He died as a sacrifice that did save us. The price that He paid was far too great for Him to die in vain. We are bought with a price. We are redeemed. The price was paid in full. Can it be that anyone who is saved by God's grace would ever face God's wrath?

6. JOY IN GOD

We rejoice in God through Christ because we have now received (present tense) the atonement (reconciliation). There is joy in salvation. It is real joy and lasting joy. Of all people, Christians ought to be full of joy. Nothing can take away our joy and nothing can affect it.

***Philippians 4:4** Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*

"Saved by His power divine / saved to new life sublime / life now is sweet and my joy is complete, for I'm saved, saved, saved!"