

"The Doctrine of Justification"

Romans 3:21-5:11

Part 12

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we have now arrived at chapter 5. Now before we start into this chapter there is something we need to understand that will help us as we study this chapter. The Theme of this chapter is the blessings we have THROUGH Christ.

Let me show you the words of **W. E. Vine** on this chapter;

"The fifth chapter shows what we have THROUGH CHRIST, while the sixth shows us what we are IN CHRIST. "THROUGH CHRIST" is the keynote of chapter five. This chapter unfolds the subjects of the effects of the death and resurrection of Christ, all being based on the doctrine of JUSTIFICATION. The opening sentence of the chapter is at once gathered from the closing statements of chapter four. The leading thought, "THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ," is expressed at both the beginning and end of the first part of the chapter (Ro 5:1-11), and at the end of the second part (Ro 5:21)."

Notice the words of **Stedman** on Romans 5;

"Romans 5 is a graduation exercise. It takes us from the elementary grades of Christian life into high school. Up to this point in the book of Romans, we have been dealing with BIRTH TRUTHS -- the elementary, introductory truths of the Christian faith. But at this point in the book we learn of the existence of GROWTH TRUTHS -- the way to maturity and power, and the way to be effective in Christian service. Now, wherever the Christian church is weak (and it is weak in many places), and wherever Christians are weak individually, it's because they have never graduated into the High School of the Holy Spirit -- they are still "babes in Christ", no matter how long they have been Christians. Sometimes you can find "babes in Christ" who have been Christians 15, 20, or even 40 years, and it is because they have never come into this high school truth of the Holy Spirit: They keep learning over and over again the same old truths about salvation in Christ that are presented in these early chapters (wonderful as they are), and never go on -- never graduate."

Tonight, as we step into Romans 5 we are stepping into "higher learning". The spiritual Truths which are found in this chapter are beautiful and they will truly bless our spirits.

I. The Security of the Believer

Part 1

Before we get to the first verse of this chapter I will tell you that if you have ever been concerned about losing your salvation this chapter will certainly take that fear away and this chapter will show us that because of the finished work of Jesus Christ we are SECURE in and through Him.

There are many today and I am sure there were many in Paul's day who "FELT" as though once they came to Christ for salvation that they had to live up to a certain standard or they would lose their salvation. That by the way would make salvation conditional. Paul has just taught in the previous chapter that salvation is by GRACE through FAITH. There would have been those and especially the Jews who would have asked, "Paul, are you sure faith is enough?" I have been confronted many times by people who have stated that because I teach eternal security I am teaching that people have a license to sin. There are those who have accused me of actually encouraging people to sin through the teaching of eternal security. One man went so far as to blame me for leading people down a path of sin because of the teaching of eternal security. The Doctrine of Eternal Security is not a license to sin. When a TRUE believer understands their security in Christ they do not desire to go out and live in sin but instead they desire to live a life that glorifies the One who gave His life for us.

For those who teach you can lose your salvation there are many questions. What is the standard you must meet to be sure you keep your salvation? What sins cause a believer to lose his or her salvation? What about the sins of omission, can they cause a person to lose their salvation? How do you harmonize losing your salvation with the immorality in the Corinthian church and what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1?

1 Corinthians 1:2-8

² *Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:*

³ *Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;*

⁵ *That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;*

⁶ *Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:*

⁷ *So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:*

⁸ *Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Here was a group of believers who were involved in immorality, strife, divisions, favoritism, and were not growing. Yet Paul says they were sanctified, they were in Christ, they were enriched by Him and they were waiting for the return of the Lord. Let us now get to Romans 5.

Notice Romans 5:1a

The word "therefore" looks back to the Doctrine of Condemnation and the Doctrine of Justification as recorded in the previous chapter. Paul has made it very clear that we are all sinners and helpless on our own. He has also explained that when we exercise our faith in Jesus Christ God removes our sin and IMPUTES to our account His own righteousness. In this chapter Paul assumes that we have understood our sinful condition and we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ. The word "JUSTIFIED" here is so very important because it is in the past tense. Let me show you the words of **Newell** on this thought. He emphasizes how important a correct understanding of the verb tense is in this particular verse.

"We must note at once that the Greek form of this verb "declared righteous," or "justified," is not the present participle, "being declared righteous," but rather the aorist participle, "having been declared righteous," or "justified." You say. What is the difference? The answer is, "being declared righteous" looks to a state you are in; "having been declared righteous" looks back to a fact that happened. "Being in a justified state" of course is incorrect, confusing, as it does, Justification and sanctification. "Whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever." The moment you believed, God declared you righteous, never to change His mind: as David says, "Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not reckon sin" (Ro 4:8). If therefore you are a believer, quote this verse properly, and say, "Having been declared righteous on the principle of faith I have"-these blessed fruits and results which are now to be recorded."

Let us now notice the first mentioned blessing of justification.

Notice Romans 5:1b

1. We have peace WITH God.

This is not to be confused with the Peace OF God. The Peace OF God is completely different than the Peace WITH God. Every believer has peace WITH God but not every believer has the peace OF God. The peace OF God is spoken of in Philippians 4.

Philippians 4:4-7

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

⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

This is not the peace which Paul is speaking of here in Romans 5. Romans 5:1 is speaking of peace WITH God. Before we were saved we were enemies of God and we were teamed up with Satan in the spiritual battle.

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Notice Romans 5:10

Before salvation we were at war with God because of our sin but when Jesus died on the cross He made a way for sinful man to have peace WITH God.

Colossians 1:20-22

²⁰ *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

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 unproveable in his sight:*

This passage is so important. Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross and that PEACE is so final and so sure that he is now able to present us holy and unblameable and

unreproveable to the Father. Allow me to define two words here to help you to see what is being said.

- a. **Unblameable** - This means without spot or blemish. Jesus blood washed us white as snow and in the eyes of God we are spotless and when we stand before God we will be without blemish.
- b. **Unreproveable** - This means that not even one of our mistakes can be called into account. You see the blood of Jesus Christ satisfied the wrath of God completely on our behalf.

The blood of Jesus Christ has made eternal peace with God on our behalf.

Notice the words of **Guzik**;

"The Bible doesn't say we have peace with the devil, peace with the world, peace with the flesh, or peace with sin. Life is still a battle for the Christian, but it is no longer a battle against God, it is fighting for Him. Some Christians are tempted to believe the battle against God was almost a better place to be, and that is a dangerous and damnable lie."

The word "PEACE" in Romans 5:1 is taken from a root word that means "to join together". It is like taking two pieces of wood and joining them together with glue. When this happens the two become one and the glue joint actually becomes stronger than the wood itself. It is impossible to break the wood on the joint. This is the very idea with the word "peace". We have peace with God through Jesus Christ and we have been joined together with Him never to be separated. It is IMPOSSIBLE to break the bond!

2. Our standing is in grace.

Notice Romans 5:2a

When we exercise our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ we enter into an inexhaustible sea of GRACE. It is a place of Divine favor given to every believer the moment he or she believes. **H. A. Ironside** has some interesting words to distinguish between STANDING and STATE.

*"It is **access** and **standing** that are before us in Romans 5:2. **Access** (Primarily objective) is based on **standing**, not on **state**. The terms are to be carefully distinguished. In Philipians we read much about our **state** (Primarily subjective). Paul was greatly concerned about that. He never had a fear about the **standing** of the children of God. That is eternally settled. **Standing** refers to the new place in which I am put by grace as justified before the throne of God and risen in Christ forever beyond the reach of judgment. **State** is condition of soul. It is experience. **Standing** never varies. **State** is fluctuating and depends on the measure in which I walk with God. My **standing** is always perfect because it is*

measured by Christ's acceptance. I am accepted in Him. "As he is, so are we in this world" (1Jn 4:17). But my **state** will be good or bad as I walk in the Spirit or walk after the flesh (Ro 8:5). My **standing** gives me title to enter consciously as a purged worshiper into the holiest and to boldly approach the throne of grace in prayer (Heb. 4:16-note, Heb. 10:19, 20). Of old God sternly said, "Worship ye afar off" (Ex 24:1). **Access** was not known under the legal covenant (Mosaic Law) God was hidden; the veil was not yet removed. Now all is different, and we are urged to "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" (He 10:22).

There is a beautiful picture of this grace seen in the story of Esther. She and all the other Jews were under a death sentence because of the decree Haman presented to the king and the king signed the decree. Mordecai knew that Esther was in a position to change the king's mind and get him to issue another decree to override the death sentence. But it meant that Esther would need to go before the king when she had not been invited. This could mean sudden death for her if the king did not raise his golden scepter in acceptance. Esther knew she needed to heed the words of her uncle Mordecai and so she fasted for three days. Now we are not told what she did in those three days. I am sure she prayed but I am also sure she pulled out the very best clothing she had, and she spent much time on her hair and she used the sweetest smelling perfume she could find. Then on the third day, dressed in her royal apparel she made her way into the throne room. As the king looked at her he was reminded of his love for her and he raised the golden scepter in acceptance and to make a long story short the Jews were saved.

There was a time long ago when even those who were saved could not enter the presence of God for it would mean certain death. But now we that are IN CHRIST have been clothed with royal apparel which is the righteousness of Jesus Christ which has been imputed to us and we can at any time come into the presence of God.

Ephesians 1:6-7

⁶ *To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

⁷ *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace:*

Let me show you the words from a Bible teacher;

The word "ACCESS" pictures fellowship and communion eternally available to redeemed rebels! The French word for this is entree meaning freedom of entry or access. And that is exactly what our Lord Jesus provides for a believing sinner. He clothes him with Himself as his righteousness, cleanses him in His precious blood, and brings him into the full

unmerited favor (grace) of God the Father. This is a believer's entree. But for how long you ask? Aren't there rules we must keep or works we must do to guarantee this entree to God? See the next paragraph.

The words "have access" mean that we "have obtained", and is perfect tense, which means we have obtained this entree in the past (a past completed action) when we were justified by faith with the effect (access) continuing into the present. The perfect tense then speaks of the permanency of our access to God, independent of human merit. This is a humbling thought which should cause us to bow low in worship at "so great a salvation". We enjoy access into an indescribable position of favor with God. We are accepted in the Beloved. Therefore, we are near and dear to God. The Father extends the golden scepter to us and welcomes us as sons, not strangers. We cry out Abba, Daddy. The question then is not do we believe that you deserve this -- we don't. But more simply the question is "Do we believe this truth about our relationship now with the Almighty?"

Conclusion:

These are just two of the blessings that we have through Christ.

1. **Peace with God.**
2. **Access into His presence standing in a sea of grace.**