

"The Doctrine of Justification"

Romans 3:21-5:11

Part 15

Introduction: In our study of Romans we are currently in chapter 5 and we are looking at the blessings we have because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross on our behalf. As we examine these blessings we also have the privilege of looking at one of the greatest passages on the security of the believer.

Now, we have looked at how every one of the blessings in this text hangs upon the legal act as described in Romans 5:1a.

Notice Romans 5:1a

If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, then you have been (past tense) justified by faith. This means that our sin is removed, and God's righteousness is imputed to our account. This is a one-time action which God does the moment we rest our faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ. Then we have the blessings which follow.

I. **The Security of the Believer**

Part 4

1. **We now have peace WITH God.**

Notice Romans 5:1

2. **We now have ACCESS into the presence of God by the GRACE which we stand in.**

Notice Romans 5:2b

3. **We rejoice in the hope of the GLORY of God.**

We are assured that one day we will be glorified.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Colossians 3:4

⁴ *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

4. **We Rejoice in Tribulations.**

Notice Romans 5:3-5a

No matter how difficult life may become we are assured that the pressure we face will not hinder God's work within us but instead He will use the tribulation to bring about growth which increases our hope as we see our lives growing in maturity. As we face pressure it builds patience/endurance in our lives and endurance brings experience/proof that we are genuine believers. This hope then will never disappoint.

So, God has started a work within us and even the tribulations of this life cannot hinder His work. Some day we will stand before Him in glorified bodies and that is assured.

Romans 8:30

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.

5. **We are wrapped FOREVER in God's love.**

Notice Romans 5:5b

As we go through the tribulations of this life we are told that the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which has been given to us. This is a marvelous statement. When we were saved we were given the Holy Spirit at that very moment. There is no believer who does not have the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The Holy Spirit is given to us as a "down payment". He is the guarantee that God will finish what He has started, and He is coming back for us.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The Holy Spirit marks us as believers and is the proof we are authentic.

It is this same Holy Spirit that was given to us who also sheds abroad in our hearts the love of God. This is speaking of God's love for us. The Holy Spirit makes the love of God known to us as His love is shed abroad in our hearts.

The words "shed abroad" mean "to pour out in abundance". God's love is not trickled into our hearts, but it is poured out like the waters of a raging river. You see, God desires for us to experience His love and to know of His love for us. The unbeliever is also loved by God but he or she does not have this experience of love for this is only for the child of God, for we are the only people on the earth who have the indwelling of the Spirit. So, God pours His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit so that as we face the trials and the tribulations of this life and we submit to God's ways and we see spiritual maturity we also have within us the assurance of God's love.

Now, we need to understand that God's love which is poured out into our hearts is only known and recognized as we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. If we are walking in the flesh and we are fighting against the path which God has given to us to walk or we are practicing sin, then we will not be aware of this love that is poured into our hearts.

Let me show you Paul's prayer and desire for the Ephesians.

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

¹⁵ *Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*

¹⁶ *That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man:*

Here Paul prays for the to be strengthened with might by the Holy Spirit in the inner man. This is a prayer that each of the believers would surrender to the guiding of the Holy Spirit so that the power of Christ would work through them.

¹⁷ *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

The word "DWELL" here in this verse has the idea of "BEING AT HOME". Paul's prayer is that every area of their lives would be given over to the Holy Spirit so that He would have access to every area. They were to walk in the Spirit and not shut the Spirit out of any areas of their lives. If He was going to BE AT HOME, then He must have access into every closet and closed room.

When the believer does this they then become grounded in LOVE. This is the LOVE that the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts. You see as we walk in the Spirit we experience the LOVE OF GOD which is poured into our hearts and it gives to us the assurance of our salvation. When we walk in the flesh we miss this and as we face the tribulations and the trials of life instead of being grounded in His love we become like a ship without an anchor and we get blown around with the winds of change that come into our lives. The believer who walks in the Spirit becomes like the man described in Psalm 1.

Psalm 1:3

³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Let us continue in Paul's prayer for the Ephesians.

¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Paul really desired that the believers at Ephesus would know the love of God and that is the love which God had for them. So, we can know the assurance of God's love as we walk in the Spirit.

Notice Romans 5:6

Here in this verse Paul points to God's love for us before we were saved. When we were without strength He loved us. When we were without strength to live for Him, to honor Him, to glorify Him. When we were without strength to give up our sin. When we were completely UNGODLY. We were lost in our sin and set against God in our hearts it was then that God's love was seen in the sacrifice which He and His Son made upon the cross to pay for the very sins that separated us from Him.

So, what is Paul saying here? If God loved us when we were wretched sinners deep in our sin and He loved us so much that He sacrificed His only begotten Son to die in our place, then how much more does He love us now that we are His children?

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We are wrapped in the loved of God forever and there is not one person or action that can separate us from His love.

Notice Romans 5:7-8

Here Paul takes the thought even further. Paul uses an illustration here to show the contrast of God's love over against the love which man has for his fellow man.

Notice the words of an unknown writer;

"And so, Paul is using an illustration from human experience explaining that even pagan idol worshipping Greeks would occasionally lay down their life for someone heroic or of high character, albeit this was certainly not a common practice. And among Jewish people this practice was not highly esteemed. And how much less inclined are people to give their lives to save a person they know to be wicked. Think about what Paul is saying here. If God was so inclined to save us while we were totally depraved and wicked, this truth should boost our sense of eternal security. In other words, now we are saved, and yes, we do still sin, but we can never be as wretched sinners as we were before salvation. And He loved us totally then! And He will love us to the end and forever! This will take an eternity to comprehend!

In modern times we hear of WWII veterans who recount stories of other G.I.'s who fell on grenades to save buddies, but there is no record of a G.I. falling on a grenade to save a Nazi. Here's the point -- a fireman may risk his life to rescue someone from an arson related fire, but the chance of that fireman offering go to prison on behalf of the arsonist is nil. Parents may pay for the ransom of a child, but they are highly unlikely to post bond for their child's kidnapper! And yet this is in essence exactly what God did for us!

Our Daily Bread has the following illustration...

"The fighting was fierce in the days before Christmas during the first World War. A German soldier emerged from his trench and tried to advance, but he was hit by gunfire

and severely wounded. As he tried to crawl back to safety, he became caught in barbed wire. After his screams turned to moans, an American climbed out of his trench and inched his way to the injured man. When the two opposing commanders saw what was happening, they ordered their troops to cease fire. In the eerie silence, the American comforted and freed the wounded German, then carried him to the waiting arms of his comrades. The guns remained silent until he returned to his trench."

*Christ's birth brought God to man
Christ's death brings man to God*

God loved us so deeply while we were deep in our sin and while we were His enemies. He loved us enough to give His Son so that we could be forgiven of all our sin.

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

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.

Notice Romans 5:8 again.

While we were wretched and ungodly God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins so that we might enter into a relationship with Him. Now listen! If God loved us in our previous spiritual condition, then how much more does He love us now since we are His children and we have His righteousness imputed to our account? We will never be who we were before. We are standing in grace as new creations.

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Now some would say that when we sin we lose our salvation. But think with me for a moment. If God loved me enough to save me in my past sinful condition and now I am a new creation in Christ forever changed as His child because of what Christ did on the cross for

me, then does He not love me enough to keep me saved? The answer is, "YES, He does love me enough to keep me saved."

Jude 1:24

²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Out of His love God gave His Son and out of His love He gave us His Spirit to make us aware of the constant flood of His love into our hearts.

Conclusion/Application:

This love that flows into our hearts should be seen in our lives as we relate to those whom we have contact with.

I will leave you with the words of Bosch;

"An inner-city mission worker longed to show Christ's love to others, but she found it difficult to give genuine affection to one particular vagrant. One day the sickly and unkempt woman to whom she had been witnessing was sentenced to jail. When the Christian worker saw her sobbing bitterly, she was filled with compassion. Quickly going to her side, she tenderly put her arm around her. Never having felt such love, the distressed woman was deeply moved, and later she accepted Jesus as her Savior.

After being released from prison, the woman was nursed back to health by the mission worker. Not only had a needy sinner been rescued, but a Christian had been brought into a deeper experience of Christlike compassion.

God doesn't love us because we're lovable but because of His grace. We freely receive His undeserved favor through the Savior, who loved us "while we were still sinners". We are to reflect this new relationship with Christ in our daily lives by showing his compassion to those who are difficult to love.

As one who has been saved by God's grace, are you showing His love to the unlovely?"