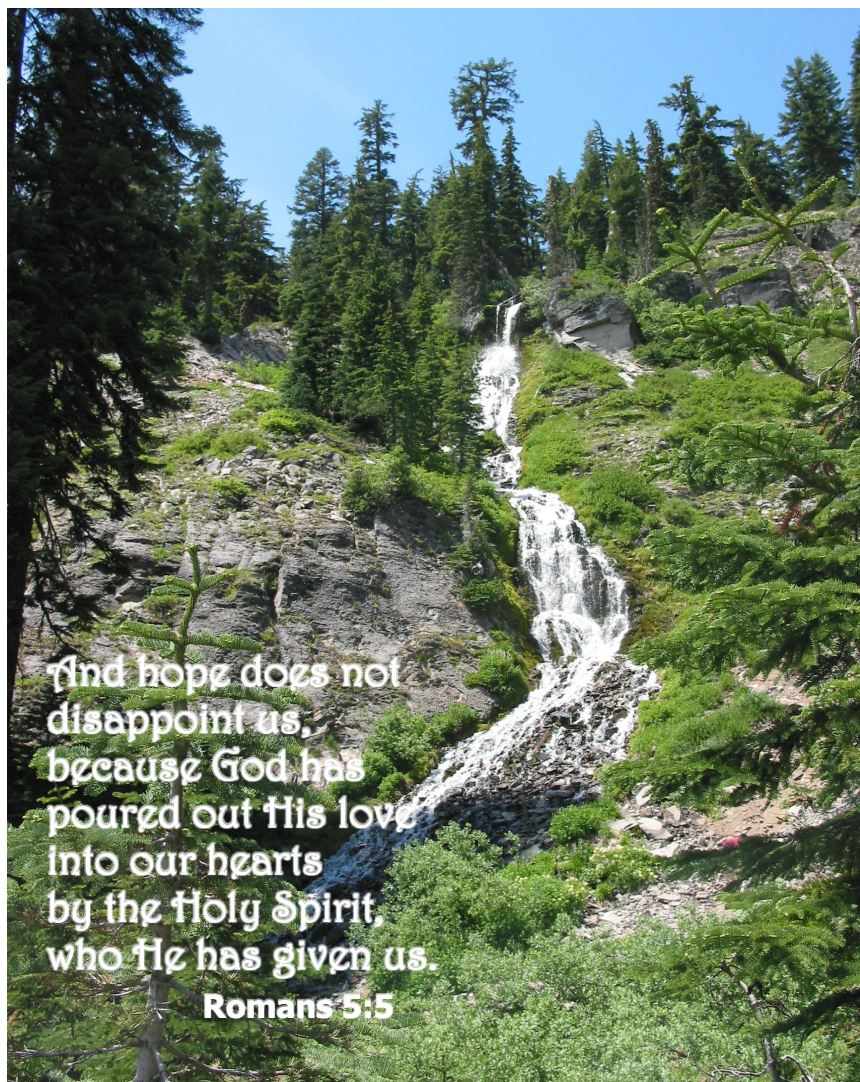


Lessons from Romans Book 3

Truth in Sequence

The Breadth and Depth of Our Justification



And hope does not
disappoint us,
because God has
poured out His love
into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit,
who He has given us.

Romans 5:5

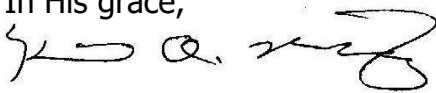
Alaska Christian Ministry to Seafarers

Foreword

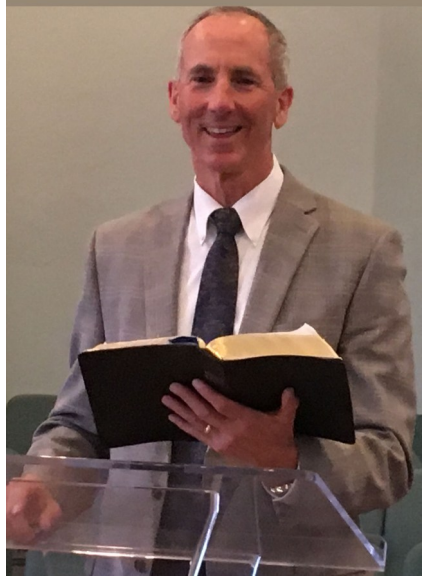
I love the truth of our justification developed in Romans Chapters 3 and 4, and I long to make real in my life the sanctification truths of Romans Chapters 6 through 8, but what I never fully appreciated, until we spent the time to extract what God has had for us all along, are the transitional truths in Romans Chapter 5.

We made it through the first four verses of Chapter 5 in Book Two. I trust you will find it to be a blessing to draw further transitional truths from Chapter 5 before we begin the challenge of our practical, day-to-day sanctification found in Chapter 6.

In His grace,



Kevin Redig



All Scripture quotes have been taken from either the NIV (1984 edition) or the NKJV (1982 edition).

Vistoso Community Church
Publication: January 2024

Introduction

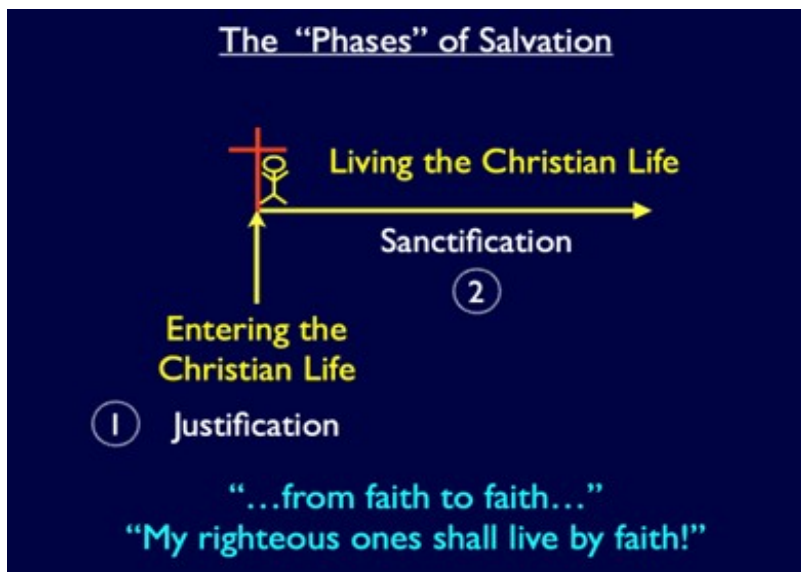
As we work our way through the progressive truths of the Book of Romans, we have come to see Romans Chapter 5 as a transition from the foundational truth of our *Justification by faith*, as developed in Chapters 3-4, to the *Sanctification by faith* as developed in Chapters 6 through 8. As you can see in the diagram, our justification is what allows us to change our eternal destiny from one in hell to one in God's heaven. Our sanctification is the ongoing process of conforming us to the image and likeness of our Savior, which is to continue as long as we remain on this earth.

Notice that, with respect to both our justification and our sanctification, the work has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ and ours is to receive these gifts by faith. For the righteousness of God, first imputed and then meant to be our daily experience:

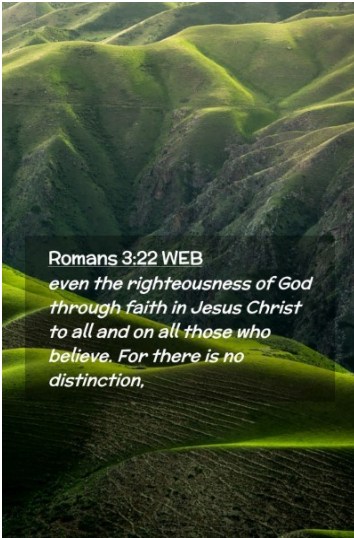
... is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

The righteous will live by faith.

Romans 1:17



So why do we need a chapter to transition between our justification and sanctification? Why not press on to the essentials of sanctification? Let me suggest, based upon



the structure of God's Word, that the Christian Life we seek to live will only be as good as the foundation upon which it is built. Our legal justification was complete at the moment of our faith in Christ back in Romans 3:22. It was then we discovered that faith in Christ led to:

... even the righteousness of God through faith in Christ, to all and on all who believe.

But, as we seek to live consistently with our justified standing, we desperately need to know the depth and breadth of our justification. Romans Chapter 5 builds and expands upon the truths of Romans 3. Thus, it is so worth our time to build a firm structure of truth in our souls before moving on to the challenges of our sanctification.

In the previous publication, we spent time working through the wonderful truths found in the first four verses of Romans Chapter 5:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:1-4

The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

We have one remaining, very powerful verse in this first section of Romans Chapter 5:

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Romans 5:5

We have learned that the justified child of God has peace with God, is standing in grace, and has a confident expectation of the glory that is certain to come. Then, we worked through the more challenging concept of rejoicing in our tribulations because we know they produce in us the ability to persevere in the faith and to have character and a resolute confidence in our great God! As I concluded in Book Two, eventually any confidence we put in the things of this world will disappoint, but the trust we place in the Lord Jesus Christ, and His promises to us, will never fail!

We can be certain of that:

... because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.

That brings us to an investigation of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

To Every Believer

Romans 5:5 is a literal promise that has been fulfilled for every born-again child of God. If you have trusted in the person and work of Christ unto eternal life, then the Spirit of God has been poured out upon you. Hold dearly to this truth, for it is to be an ongoing and daily illustration of God's love for you! He only pours His Spirit into those He loves!

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of believers can be traced back to a promise:

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth ... John 14:16-17

There are two words to note in the above: *another* and *counselor*.

- The word translated *another* really means *another of the same kind*. As Jesus prepares to depart, He is promising to send another member of the Trinity. We dare not forget that the Holy Spirit, like the Father and Son, is omnipotent, sovereign, righteous, just, and loving.
- The word translated *counselor* is very broad in meaning encompassing helper, encourager, exhorter. Further, as we ponder the scope of Scripture, it becomes clear that we should not limit the role of the Holy Spirit to any one particular thing. As needed, He convicts us of sin, enables us to do all things, produces fruit in our lives, guides us into all truth. In short, the scope of His ministry in our lives is very broad.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Church-age believers can be traced back to a historical event.

Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2:33

Acts Chapter 1 describes the ascension of Jesus into heaven, where He was seated in the place of exaltation at the Father's right hand. Jesus received from the Father the Holy Spirit, which He in turn poured out on all who believed on the day of Pentecost as described in Acts Chapter 2.

Now here is something essential for us to grasp—the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was not a one-time event

on Pentecost. On the contrary, it is now the new norm during this the time of the Church, as our text in Romans makes very clear!

... God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us. Romans 5:5

If we look at the ministry of the Holy Spirit as it applies to those who have been justified, we find the following:

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

I Corinthians 12:13

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

I Corinthians 6:19a

Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

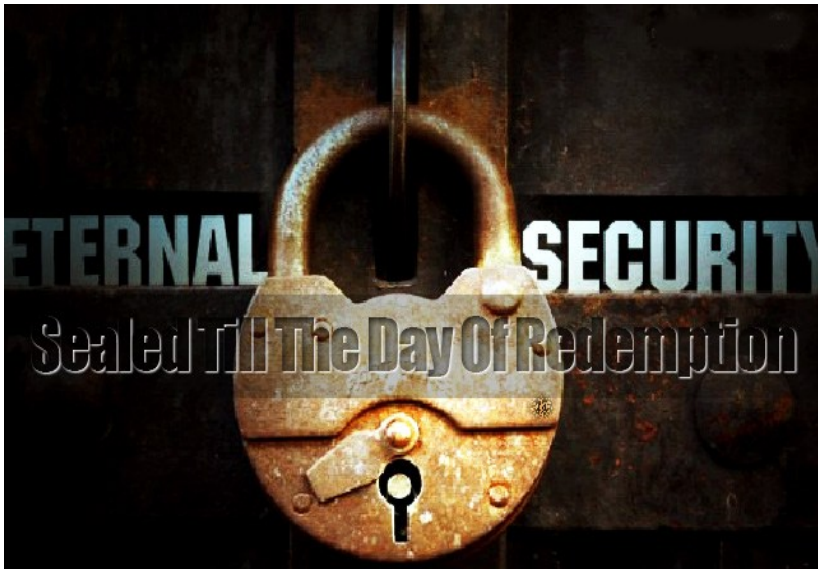


If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are justified forever! Along with your justified status comes the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit. Those are facts which every child of God should know and stand firmly upon! Ponder the outpouring of the Holy Spirit into your heart as God's gracious gift, and allow me to give you two *Points of Application*:

1. The Divine in each and every one of the children of God is a manifestation of the love of God that can be found nowhere else but in Christ and at no other time in the outworking of God's purposes than this, the time of the Church. It is a matchless gift!
2. The Spirit outpoured should give the believer in Christ a whole new understanding of:

"I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5



Summarizing What We Have Learned

This completes our look at Romans 5:1-5, but let's not miss the opportunity to draw things together.

- Romans Chapter 5 starts with the best of news: peace with Almighty God, a position of standing squarely in His grace, and the confidence of glory to come. These are ours—permanently—and should be of great comfort.
- Then come a few Greek prepositions translated: *and not only that, but ...* They move us from the marvelous truths of Verses 1 and 2 to the reality that in this life, tribulation is coming for every child of God. But we learned the secret of rejoicing in sufferings because we know they are used by God to draw us closer to Him, to teach us to depend upon Him, and to produce perseverance. This leads to character and, in turn, builds a confidence in the faithfulness of our God. This confidence in our great God will never disappoint—ever! He has poured Himself into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit—placing us in the body of Christ, indwelling us and sealing us as His own.
- Now, understanding the Christian Life to be one of faith built upon persevering in trial, building character, and seeing God work over and over again is a very challenging proposition. It is not something we can do in our own strength—nor I am admonishing you to get out there and seek to persevere on your own. Instead, I am hoping you will see the beauty of what the Lord is doing, the completeness of His provision, and His call to fully trust in Him.

- It then becomes a matter of trusting Him to be at work and daily providing the grace to accomplish your development. And He will!

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who lives in you. Romans 8:11

- In the meantime, on almost a daily basis our world is becoming a more challenging place to stand firm for Jesus. I suspect that it is going to get harder still in the near future. So, here is the message of Romans 5: Let the circumstances of our fallen world provide the opportunity to persevere in dependent trust, let them develop godly character in us as we seek to conform to the image and likeness of Christ, and let them build our confidence in the ongoing love and capability of our God. He has bound us to Himself when He sealed us with His Spirit. He will never leave nor forsake us, because He has poured Himself into our very being, He will never disappoint!

Jeremiah faced the most grievous of suffering and yet, here is His testimony. I remember:

... my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall ... Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope (confidence): **Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness ... the Lord is good to those whose hope** (confidence) **is in Him ...** Lamentations 3:19-26

How can our testimony be any less when we have the Spirit outpoured into our very hearts? The Christian Life is not a call to prosperity and peace on this earth. It is a call to knowing the mercies of God on a daily basis, in the midst of the most trying circumstances, until He calls us into His presence and the glory that awaits!

While We Were Yet Sinners

We are not yet done studying the transitional content of Romans Chapter 5 which God has so graciously provided for us. We are going to look carefully at Romans 5:6-11. As was true of Verses 1-5, we are going to further solidify our understanding of what is ours as the result of being justified—declared righteous—before the Holy Sovereign and Creator of all things. The stronger our grasp of justification, the more capable we will be of dealing with the subject of sanctification starting in Chapter 6. So let us begin:

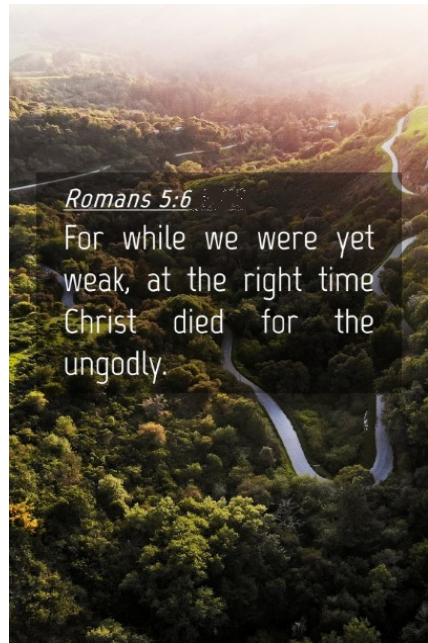
For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

Without Strength

Notice the simple, but profound phrase: *when we were without strength*.

We were weak because we were unrighteous

before a holy God, and there was absolutely nothing we could do to address our hopeless situation. Ponder with me the world's religions and all the religious activity they promote. What does this statement do to all such activity, done in the hope of pleasing God or earning His favor? It relegates every bit of it to the trash heap, for God has pronounced us lost individuals, because *we were without strength*, every bit as firmly as He pronounced there are *none righteous, no, not even one!* (Roman 3:10)



Romans 5:6

For while we were yet weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

In Due Time ...

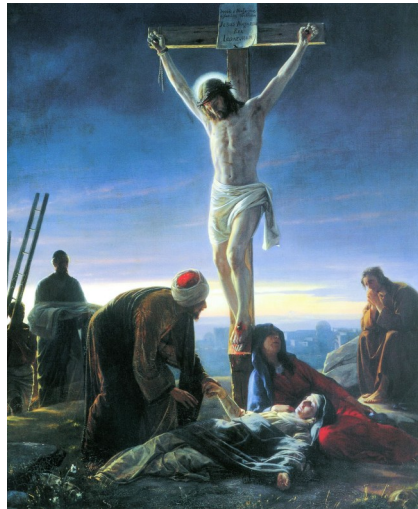
Jesus came *in the fullness of time* (Galatians 4:4), meaning He came at just the right time in keeping with the plans and purposes of God. The fact that the unfolding of history is under God's sovereign control also tells us that Christ's death on the cross was not God somehow losing control of circumstances, but was in keeping with His plans and it was in His *due time*!

This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put Him to death ... Acts 2:23

Christ Died for the Ungodly!

Who are the ungodly? This refers to unrighteous humanity—the entire human race. What did Christ do? He died for lost mankind. He died in their place, receiving upon Himself the death sentence that was otherwise theirs. As Romans 5:7 points out, this just isn't done! The ways of God are certainly not the ways of man!

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8



So tell me, what did we do to prompt Jesus Christ to die in our place? Were we lovely people, doing good deeds in obedience to our Creator? No, we were hopeless, helpless, and hell-bound sinners!

Now, perhaps you are thinking you are not that bad, that you might yet make it into heaven by being *better* than most. Those who think this way have forgotten, or are unaware of, just how far removed from God they really are—and they were born that way. Let me show you:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ... Romans 5:12

... through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation ... Romans 5:18

Put these two verses from later in Chapter 5 together, and what do we have? When Adam sinned, his sin spread to all men, that is all future members of the human race, and, where we find Adam's sin we find death! But it is worse than that. Because we are all born with Adam's sin imputed to us, we are all born spiritually dead. Romans makes clear that all are under condemnation. That's why it doesn't matter if you live a morally better life than your neighbor! Unless you have dealt with the sin of Adam, which has been imputed to you, as well as your nature to sin, there is only condemnation ahead. But praise God that although you and I were still sinners, Christ died for us!

But then, if we were sinners, what could possibly have prompted the Lord Jesus to die for us? It was the Father's love that sent His Son, and the Son's love for the will of the Father that brought Him to the cross to pay our sin-debt. God's love and our desperate need is the full story of the cross!

Perish the thought that we would talk about our works, our surrender, or anything else. We shouldn't be looking at ourselves at all, but rather focusing on His death for us. We are to be enamored with HIM!

Much More Then ...

The next two verses in Romans contain some absolutely marvelous truth, but we are going to have to dig a little bit in order to understand that truth fully. Let's start with Verse 9:

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 5:9

The words *much more then* tip us off to a very interesting Greek construction. This construction is used when the writer wishes to communicate that if the harder (or greater) thing has been done, then it follows that, of course, the easier thing will be done. What Paul is saying in Verse 9 is that if God could take you and me, as lost sinners living in rebellion against Him, and clothe us with His righteousness, then it is without question a simple matter for God to deliver us from His wrath—forever!

Points of Application: We can immediately make two points of application in light of the above passage, and both should greatly encourage us:

1. Condemnation is specifically related to whether or not one has believed in the person and work of Christ.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already ...

John 3:18

As we have learned, our status of justification is the result of the very same belief that removes our condemnation. Romans 5:9 teaches us the sequence: If we believe, we are justified (that's the hard part). So naturally, no condemnation will ever fall upon the one who has God's imputed righteousness (that's the easy part). Of course, since we are born condemned in Adam, if nothing happens during the course of our

lifetime to bring us out from under wrath and make us justified before our holy God, then we are going to end life in the same condition in which we started it—under condemnation!

2. Christians have a bad habit of questioning their eternal security. What they should be doing is questioning whether or not they have placed their faith in the person and work of Christ. This is an easy question to answer. If the answer is yes, then they have the righteousness of Christ and stand justified. If God accomplished that, then delivery from His wrath is a settled matter, for it is the easier thing for Him to accomplish. Even if you have failed in some terrible way, get your eyes off of yourself and onto the work of the cross and what God has promised for those who come to Him through His Son!

Now, everything I described above hinges on the sinner being justified in God's sight and that is the harder thing to do! What did it take to accomplish this mighty work? Our text tells us—the *Blood of Christ*!



Every believer is justified by the
Blood of Christ
and saved from wrath through Him!

Romans 5:9

God's Premium on The Blood of Christ

If the Blood of Christ provided the means for our justification, it behooves us to understand what it refers to as completely as we can. First, upon the authority of God's Word, what is the means by which we are justified before God?

... having now been justified by His blood ...

Romans 5:9

The means is clearly revealed: *by His blood!* That would be the *Blood of Jesus!* But to what does this refer? Is it a reference to the physical blood of Jesus, and nothing further? Many have allowed their understanding to stop with the physical and have gone no further.

Understanding what the Blood of Christ means.

Let me challenge your thinking. The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were killed by the slitting of their throats. The animal's life blood was both collected for ceremonial purposes and allowed to pour out on the ground. It is clear from the Biblical record that there is a strong distinction between the blood of Old Testament animal sacrifices and the phrase *the Blood of Christ*.



The physical blood, symbolizing the life of the innocent sacrifice, was sprinkled and used for anointing. There is no such corollary with the physical blood of Christ. Our Savior's blood was never collected, nor did He bleed to death as did every Old Testament sacrifice. In fact, Christ was physically alive when He declared His work of payment for sin to be *finished!*

Thus, let me shift your understanding to a larger understanding of the phrase *The Blood of Christ*, and define it to be the following:

All that Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb of God, accomplished during those terrible hours on the cross. There was extreme physical suffering to be sure, but an even greater spiritual suffering as He bore the sins of mankind. He received upon Himself the wrath of God for our sin, which included the penalty for sin—death. He was separated from the Father and the Spirit—the perfect fellowship of the Trinity was broken because of our sin!

This is what was necessary and the means by which the lost human race could be justified before the Father by responding in faith. What a Savior we have! How helpless we are to do anything to obtain this justification we so desperately need!

Understanding the relationships. To further increase our appreciation for the *Blood of Christ*, let's make sure we understand how it relates to God the Father, to man, and to our adversary the Devil.

- God the Father was completely satisfied, for that is what propitiation means, by the *Blood of Christ!* Jesus took on our humanity that,

He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17

As we have seen, the Father was so satisfied with the work of His Son that God exalted Him above all else by seating Him at His right hand following His work on the cross!

- The *Blood of Christ* also directly impacts the saved child of God, for it is that which allows us to draw near to God! We have been:

... brought near through the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus ...

Hebrews 10:19

This is the reason that we can:

... approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

All of this is because of the *Blood of Christ* and for no other reason.



But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off are made near in the blood of Christ.

Hebrews 2:23



- What impact does the *Blood of Christ* have on the plans and purposes of Satan? First, we must understand Satan in his role as accuser—seeking to bring the saved child of God back under judgment.

... the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night ... Revelation 12:10

Although the devil's accusation may be true, we can rest in both our advocate and His *Blood* which has dealt with our sin!

But if anyone does sin, we have One who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the righteous One ... and as we confess ... the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin.

I John 2:1, I John 1:7

Let me be quite blunt. When we wonder how God feels about us after failure, when we try to make our failures up to God, or when we listen to Satan's accusations and labor along under a cloud of guilt, do we realize that we are doubting the efficacy of the *Blood of Christ*?

My brothers and sisters, that should never be the case! The verses we have studied make it very clear that the *Blood of Christ* addresses things from the perspective of God the Father, it addresses things from the perspective of the saved child of God, and it thwarts the interference and accusations of Satan.

We need to first thoroughly understand all that is contained in the phrase *the Blood of Christ*, and then place the proper premium upon it that we might rest in its sufficiency to deal with every aspect of our sin!

The Second *Much More*

That brings us to a second *much more* within our text:

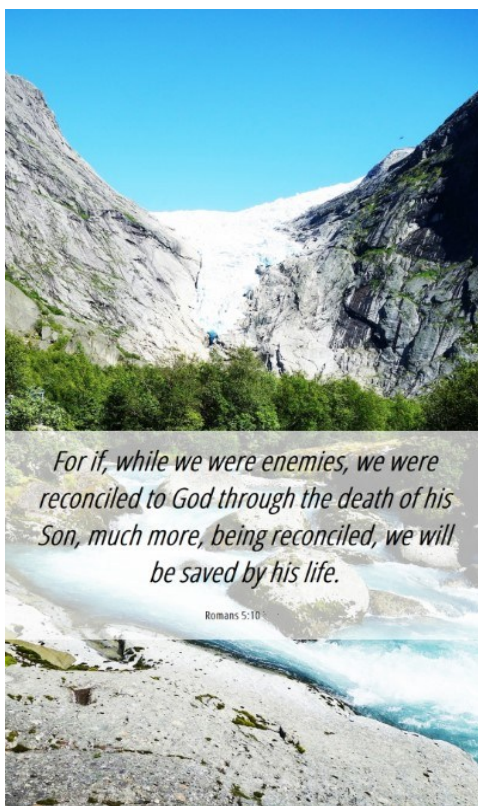
For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Romans 5:10

By now you should be able to handle this unique *much more* construction that is a part of the Greek language in which the New Testament was written.

As you recall, this method of revealing truth moves from that which is the greater (or harder) to that which is the lesser (or easier). If God could take those in Satan's dominion—his subjects—and reconcile them to Himself, then it is a much easier matter for Him to provide the power necessary to live the life to which He calls us.

Do not overlook a most essential part of this: The Greater, that would be our reconciliation, was accomplished by the death of Jesus. Further, as we are going to find out, the life that the Father provides as part of our salvation



For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we will be saved by his life.

Romans 5:10

is also related to Jesus, for it is a share in His resurrection life! Let me show you.

- First, our redemption from Satan's dominion:

For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13-14

- Then, the beginning of new life, which is made clear to be the very life of Jesus!

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

II Corinthians 5:17

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Galatians 2:20

Thus, we have arrived at the perfect place to move into the spirituality that is meant to be the norm for every born-again child of God, and that means the marvelous content of Romans Chapters 6 through 8.

We have carefully studied how it is that a person enters the Christian Life. We learned that faith in the person and work of Christ not only provides the free gift of eternal life, but results in our being clothed with the very righteousness of Christ. Because it is His righteousness and not ours, we are allowed to stand justified before our holy God.

Not only that, but we have spent the time establishing just how firm a foundation God has provided in our justification: reconciled, standing in grace with a hope of glory. Because we are justified, we have learned how to face the trials of this life that they might build perseverance and character and solidify our hope. We will disappoint ourselves and others regularly, but the love of God

never disappoints, and we can be certain of that because He has poured out His Spirit into our hearts. How great is our God and how great is the salvation that He has provided.

What Are We to Do?

How about if we close by pausing for a moment and rejoicing in the so-great salvation that is ours in Christ.

And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Romans 5:11

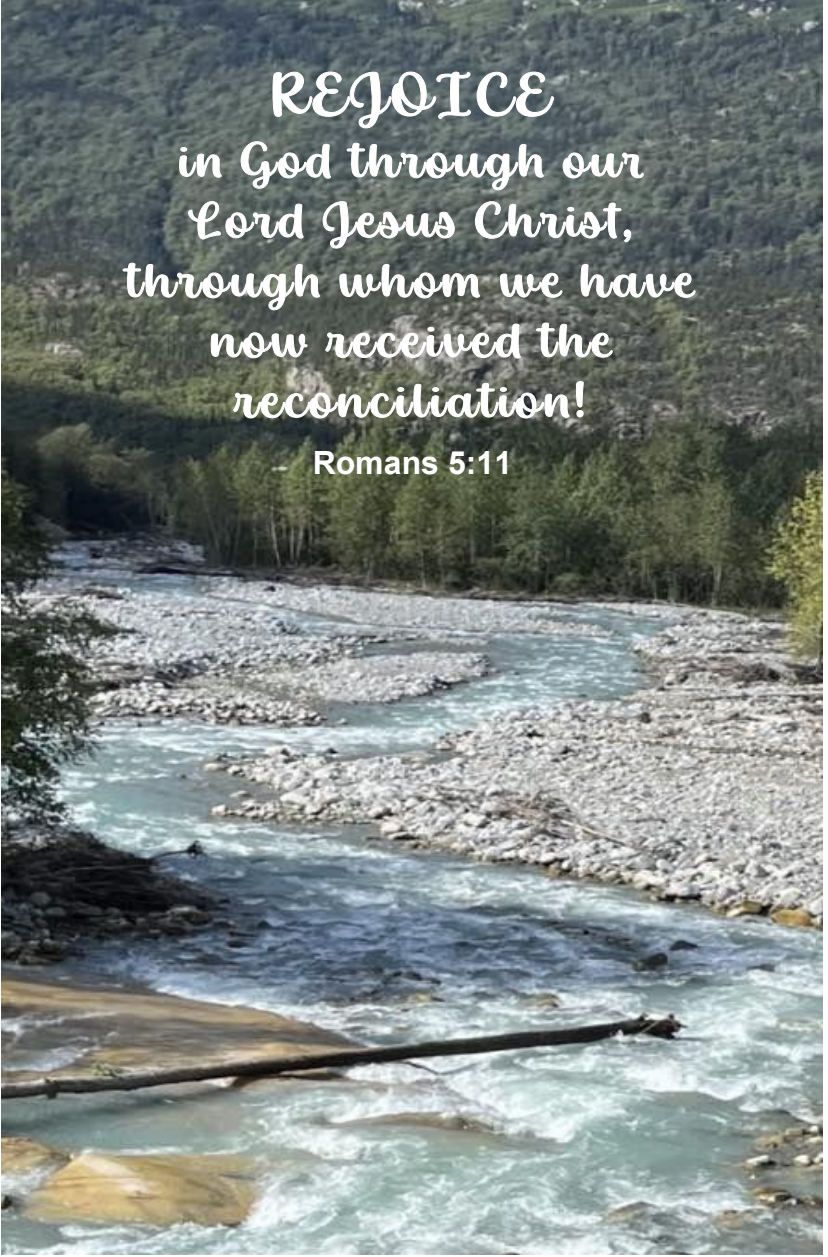
Heavenly Father, we rejoice in who You are and in Your plan to redeem mankind from our desperate and hopeless condition. We rejoice that Jesus, our Savior, carried out Your plan to perfection. We thank you for the reconciliation that is ours in Jesus, and we readily acknowledge that it is found in Him alone and nowhere else! Give us boldness to bear witness to our Redeemer and all that He has done for us. In Jesus' name, Amen!

If by some chance you have read to this point, but have never personally received God's free gift:

Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.

Romans 5:18

The free gift is the eternal life and justification that is available in just one way and in just one person—faith alone in Christ alone. Don't leave what God offers on the table. Receive this gift today—by faith!



REJOICE
in God through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have
now received the
reconciliation!

— Romans 5:11



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