

THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST

Romans 5:1-2, 6-11

There is **something** that makes Christianity *more than a religion...more than just a good moral ethical standard*. It is this **something** which makes it relevant to each and every one of us right now. God in His righteousness has no option but to find us *guilty as a sinner* and to pass upon us the *sentence of death*. But *two-thousand years ago*, God, **in Christ**, *stepped out of eternity into time*, and there, extended to us the *nail-pierced hands* of the One who suffered...*“the just for the unjust...”* to bring us back to Himself. This **something** is the fact that **God sent His Son to do for us what we could never do for ourselves**.

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

~I Peter 3:18

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

~I Peter 2:24

This is what makes the Gospel so urgent! *Mental assent* isn't enough...trying to be a *“good person”* isn't enough. **Christ is God's last word to man** and God's last word to each and every one of us...and *He demands an answer*. Our response to Jesus Christ will determine our *condition* and *position* in the sight of God...*for eternity...redeemed or condemned!*

I. OUR JUSTIFICATION: (vs. 1-2)

Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God (vs. 1-2)...

Therefore, having been justified by faith...Justified... means *pardoned...to release someone from the punishment that relates to their guilt*.

Paul states unequivocally that *salvation* comes only on the basis of *God's work of grace through man's faith*. Man's only part in becoming *saved* is to *receive forgiveness and reconciliation* freely from God's gracious hand.

We have peace with God...the verb translated **we have** is in the *present tense*...indicating *something that is already possessed*.

The **peace** that **Paul** is speaking about here is not a *subjective* peace but an *objective* peace...it's a *fact* not a *feeling*. Through peace *with* God you will have found the peace *of* God...*“which surpasses all comprehension”* (**Philippians 4:7**).

Keep in mind that every *unsaved* person is at *peace* only with the things of the *flesh* and therefore by definition is *“hostile towards God”* (**Romans 8:7**).

To those who foolishly think God is too loving to send anyone to hell, **Paul** declared...

“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things (the sins listed in verse 5) the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

~Ephesians 5:6

Through whom...directly points to the **Lord Jesus Christ** here in **verse 1**. Because of our *reconciliation* to God *through our trust* in His Son, **we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace**.

Introduction...Gk. *prosagoge*, is used *only three times* in the NT, and in each instance, it is *used of the believer's access to God through Jesus Christ* (see **Ephesians 2:18; 3:12**).

- For *Jews*, the idea of having *direct access* to God was unthinkable, because to see God face to face was to die (**Exodus 19:9**...Moses).
- With the *Tabernacle* and later the *Temple* strict restriction were made.
- *Gentiles*...could only go into the outer confines.
- *Jewish women*...could go beyond the **Gentile** limit but not much farther.
- So it was with *regular Jewish men* verse the *priest*.
- Even the *priests* verse the *high priest*...the *Holy of Holies*.
But Christ's death ended that. Through His *atoning sacrifice*, He made God *accessible* to any person, **Jew** or **Gentile**, who trusts in that sacrifice. When Jesus was crucified, "*the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom*" by God's power (**Matthew 27:51**). His death forever *removed the barrier* to God's holy presence that the Temple veil represented.

By faith into this grace in which we stand...On the basis of our **faith** in Jesus...Christ brings believers **into this grace in which we stand**.

Stand...Gk. *histemi*, carries the idea of *permanence...of standing firm and immovable...eternal security*.

"For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

~Philippians 1:6

And we exult in hope of the glory of God...Since every aspect of our salvation is *solely the work of God*...the end of that divine work is the ultimate *glorification* of every believer in Jesus Christ.

"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified."

~Romans 8:29-30

Paul has already established that *salvation* is *anchored* in the *past* because Christ has made **peace with God** for all those who trust in Him (**vs. 1**). It is *anchored* in the *present* because by Christ's *continual intercession* (**Hebrews 7:25**). And because of that *intercession*, every believer now *stands securely in* God's **grace** (**vs. 2a**).

Next, he proclaims that *salvation* is also *anchored* in the *future* because God gives every one of His children the *unchangeable promise* that one day they will be clothed with the glory of His own Son...**hope**.

Exult...Gk. *kauchaomai*, denotes *jubilant and rejoicing...to revel in glory...to triumph*.

Hope...Gk. *elpis*, describe a *confident* and *anxious anticipation*. It doesn't describe a hope *for*...it describes a hope *in*. Christ Himself is our **hope** (**I Timothy 1:1**).

The most immediate result of *justification* is *reconciliation*...which is the theme of **Romans 5**. *Reconciliation* with God brings **peace with God**. When a person embraces Jesus Christ in repentant faith, the sinless Son of God who made perfect satisfaction for all our sins makes that person eternally at **peace with God**. In fact, Christ not only *brings* peace to the believer, but "*He Himself is our peace*..." (**Ephesians 2:14**).

II. OUR RECONCILIATION: (vs. 6-11)

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die (vs. 6-7)...

Our *spiritual security* is not in our ability to *live* godly but in the *power* of the *indwelling* Holy Spirit to *make* us Godly. Here, Paul reminds us of *the greatest manifestation of God's love* in all of history...perhaps in all eternity...For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (vs. 8)... Only *at death* does an *unbeliever cease to be loved by God*. After that, he is *eternally beyond* the pale of God's love and is *destined irrevocably* for His *wrath*.

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. (vs. 9)...

The phrase **much more then** indicates that what follows is even *more overwhelming* and *significant* than what has *preceded*...even as astounding and wonderful as that is.

Having been justified by His blood refers to *the initial aspect of salvation*, which for believers is *past*.

Saved from the wrath of God through Him, shows us that our *assurance* is *through Christ...not ourselves* or *our good works*. We are now *identified* with Christ and are *adopted* as God's children...we are no longer "*children of wrath*" (Ephesians 2:3). As part of His atoning work, Jesus delivered us "*from the wrath to come*" (I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9)...because on the cross He took upon

Himself the *penalty* and *suffered the wrath* that we deserve.

For if while 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 (vs. 10)...

"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

~II Corinthians 5:18-19

The Lord Jesus Christ ministers to us in two distinct ways...

- *He reconciles us to God by His death.*
- *And He gives us life through His resurrection.*

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son...The glorious fact is that as soon as God **reconciles** us to Himself, He *imparts* to us...a forgiven sinner...the *presence of the Holy Spirit*. This is what the Bible calls *regeneration*...or *new birth*...or being *born again*.

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

~Titus 3:5-7

Having been reconciled...*an accomplished fact*.

We shall be saved by His life...*a continuing process.*

The One who *saved* you has *called* you to a *life of righteousness*. The One who *calls* you to a *life of righteousness* is the One who by your *surrender*, *lives that life of righteousness through* you. The One who *calls* you to *go into all the world and preach the Gospel* to every creature, is the One who by your *surrender*, *goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel* to every creature *through* you. This is the divine genius that saves man from the *futility of self-effort*.

And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation (vs. 11)...

Why do we exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ who gave us access to Him? Because from Him we have now received the reconciliation...His *gift* to us.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

~II Corinthians 5:20

*O for a thousand tongues to sing,
Praises unto to Thee.
O for a thousand hands to raise,
In honor to the King.*

TRUTHS WE CAN LIVE BY:

- **To be in Christ...that is REDEMPTION. For Christ to be in you ...that is SANCTIFICATION.**

To be in Christ...that makes you fit for heaven. For Christ to be in you...that makes you fit for earth!

To be in Christ...that changes your destination. For Christ to be in you...that changes your destiny!

The one makes *heaven* your *home*. The other makes this *world* His *workshop...through you!*

If you will but trust Christ, not only for the *death* He died in order *to redeem you*, but also for the *life* that He lives and waits to *live through you*...the very next step you take will be a step taken in the very *energy* and *power* of God Himself.

- **Live a life TOTALLY DEPENDENT upon the life of Christ.** When you become *totally dependent* upon the life of Christ *within you*, you will have never before realized what it is like to live so *emancipated* from the *pressures of this world* and the *circumstances you face*...so free from the *bondage* that your enemy the devil desires to use to *hold you captive*.
- **To please God, we must live by FAITH.** Faith is simply *taking God at precisely at His word*.

There is a law that I have never been able to break...it's the *law of gravity*. But I have learned that there is another law ...a law that *overcomes the law of gravity*. It's the *law of aero-dynamics*. If I'm willing to commit myself in *total trust* to this new law, then this *new law* will *set me free* from the *old law*. By faith, I step into a plane...I sit back and *rest by faith* as those mighty engines roar into action. I discover that the *new law of aero-dynamics* sets me free from *the law of gravity*.

So long as I *maintain by faith* that *position of total dependence*, I do not have to try to be free from the *law of gravity*...I am being *set free* by the operation of a new and higher law. Of course, if I am stupid enough that I decide that the cabin of the plane is too stuffy, and step out through the emergency exit...the moment I *discard my position of faith* in the new and higher law that is setting

me free...I discover that the *old law of gravity* is still *fully operational*...and I will fall! I must maintain my *attitude of dependence* if I am to remain air-borne.

So too, are we called upon by God to *walk by faith*...to *walk in the Spirit*.