

The Blessings of Justification by Faith (*Part 5*)

Romans 5:1-11

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: We can and should live with triumphant joy because our salvation—past, present and future—is absolutely certain because of the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because He lives, we too, shall live with Him forever!

In Romans 5:9-11, Paul brings this section of Romans to a close with a celebration of our salvation—past, present and future.

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have...

#1 – Peace [with God] (vs. 1)

#2 – Access [to God] (vs. 2)

#3 – Grace [from God] (vs. 2)

#4 – Hope [of God] (vs. 2)

#5 – Sufferings [for God] (vs. 3)

#5a – Perseverance (vs. 3)

#5b – Character (vs.4)

#5c – Hope (vs. 4)

#6 – Love [from God] (vs. 5, 6-8)

#6a – The Timing of God’s Love (vs. 6)

#6b – The Unusual Nature of God’s Love (vs. 7)

#6c – The Demonstration of God’s Love (vs. 8)

#7 – The Holy Spirit [from God] (vs. 5)

8 – Our Future Salvation from God’s Coming Wrath – Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! (vs. 9)

1. We are Justified by Christ’s Blood

- All of the blessings that we are contemplated and celebrated in verses 1-8 flow out of this fact that we have been justified, declared righteous by God.
- This is our position, our standing in Christ which cannot, otherwise, be obtained.
- Our justification took place at a moment in time but we will be contemplating and celebrating the benefits of that moment for all of eternity!

2. We Are and Shall be Saved from God’s Wrath Through Christ

- Those who have not yet put their faith in Jesus Christ are under the wrath of God.
- The believer’s Position or Standing is “in Christ”; the non-believer’s Position or Standing is “under wrath.”
 - God’s wrath is a present reality – Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 2:1-4; 2 Peter 3:9
 - God’s wrath is a future reality – Revelation 6:15-17; Hebrews 10:27
- The believer in Christ is assured that he will not face the wrath of God – 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:8-11
- The assurance of our salvation should result in:
 - The pursuit of personal holiness (1 John 3:1-3)

- The edification (building up) of our brothers and sisters in Christ (Hebrew 10:24-25)
- The evangelism of the lost (Matthew 28:18-20)
- Our faith in Christ's death in the past assures us that we stand justified before God in the present and that we will be saved from His wrath in the future!
- "It is evident that our eternal salvation is secure and certain. The God who make possible for us justification through the death of his Son, will undoubtedly grant us eternal blessedness as we share now in the life of the risen Christ." (*Erdman, Romans, p. 64*)

#9 – Our Present Salvation through Christ's Resurrection Life – For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (vs. 10)

- If God reconciled us to Himself while we were His enemies, how much more certain it is that He will bring our salvation to completion now that we are His children!
- Note the repetition in verses 9 and 10: How much more...
- Our salvation is dependent, not only on the death of Christ, but also on His resurrection. (cp. Romans 4:25)
- Without the Resurrection, Christ's death is no more effective for our salvation than the death of any other person. But because He rose, our salvation is sure! (Hebrews 7:23-25)
- It is the Resurrection of Christ that makes possible and that assures us that Jesus Christ is in heaven, interceding on our behalf.
- The assurance of our salvation does not come from our present performance but from Christ's permanent priesthood!

"Many take these verses to refer to final salvation from the presence of sin. But in this context, Paul goes on to discuss being saved from the power of sin (see ch. 6). Thus *wrath* here is God's present wrath (see 1:18), and *His life* is the life of Christ in believers (see v. 18). The point is that since God's love and the death of Christ have brought us justification, then as a result of that love, we can also expect salvation from God's wrath. To experience this truth, the believer must fully cooperate with the process that is explained in 6:1-14 (see John 8:32). The believer must die to sin and present himself or herself to God as an 'instrument of righteousness' (see 6:14)." (*NKJV Study Bible, p. 1887*)

#10 – Our Past Salvation through God's Gift of Reconciliation – Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (vs. 11)

- Reconciliation means to be brought back into fellowship with God.
- The blessings of the salvation that we received in the past continue on into the present and we are assured that they will continue on into the future.
- As Paul brings this section to a close, he says, "Rejoice because you are reconciled to God!"
- In Christ we are justified by God, we are reconciled to God, and we will be glorified by God!

"Totally apart from law, and purely by grace, we have a salvation that takes care of the past, the present, and the future. Christ died for us; Christ lives for us; Christ is coming for us! Hallelujah, what a Savior!" (*Wiersbe, Be Right, p. 63*)