

Blessed With Assurance

Text : **Romans 5: 1-11**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Though our text clearly teaches justification by grace the subject has been debated for centuries.

1. Debate over the basis of justification is the underlying problem in several N.T. books
2. N.T. churches had high percentages of new converts and many of them sought to bring their cultural values into the church with them.
 - a. The Jews advocated a system of work, **i.e.**, justification on the basis of merit.
 - b. The Greeks emphasized the need for special wisdom and individual revelation.
 - c. The Romans wanted influence, preeminence and personal experiences.

B. Through the centuries the debate over justification and assurance of salvation has swung radically in both directions.

1. During the great Roman apostasy there was a swing toward extreme legalism.
 - a. The doctrines of purgatory and prayers for the dead were instituted.
*(These were based upon their teaching that the successors of the Apostles and those to whom they delegated authority could bind and lose sins. They based this authority on a misinterpretation of **John 20: 22-23** And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.")* <= *Action completed in past*
 - b. Constantine imposed top down organization on the church, so a few men ruled all.
 - c. Few people had copies of the scriptures so errors could not easily be refuted.
 - d. Because there was no standard and no one challenging, they began making laws.
2. When some educated priests began to complain that they had gone too far, the Reformation Movement was born.
 - a. In 1517 a courageous priest named Martin Luther nailed a list of 95 thesis about which he wished to debate the Roman church leaders on the door of the church.
 - b. He challenged men having authority to bind sin, purgatory and prayer for the dead.
(These practices were used to raise money to build the great cathedrals.)
 - b. These thesis declared that one is saved by grace through faith, not by good deeds.
 - c. Many other priests quickly followed the lead of Martin Luther so the Roman church responded with a counter-reformation.
3. In 1545 the Council Of Trent issues 33 canons and 16 degrees; among them these :

Council of Trent: Canons on Justification.

Canon 14: "If any one saith, that man is truly absolved from his sins and justified, because that he assuredly believed himself absolved and justified; or, that no one is truly justified but he who believes himself justified; and that, by this faith alone, absolution and justification are effected; let him be anathema."

1. "For what does the scriptures say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness," (**Rom. 4:3**).
2. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (**Rom. 5:1**).

Canon 30: "If any one saith, that, after the grace of Justification has been received, to every penitent sinner the guilt is remitted, and the debt of eternal punishment is blotted out in such wise, that there remains not any debt of temporal punishment to be discharged either in this world, or in the next in Purgatory, before the entrance to the kingdom of heaven can be opened (to him); let him be anathema."

1. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," (**Rom. 5:1**).
2. "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **14** Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross," (**Col. 2:13-14**).

C. Their supposition was that fear of Hell was the only motivator for doing good.

1. Fear is a temporary motivator.
 - a. It takes increasing levels of threat to maintain fear. (*lead to oppression – inquisition*)
 - b. Fear engenders sneakiness and competitiveness against authority.
2. God seeks love and respect, not just fear.
 - a. No one wants their children to fear them.
 - b. The goal is for our children to desire to please. (*That's God's goal as well.*)
3. Once a person realizes what has been done for him, he is motivated by gratitude.
 - a. Thus, only when a person realizes he is saved will he consistently serve.
 - b. Gratitude is the normal response to benefit ... *greater benefit = greater response.*
 - c. Faithful service is a fruit of faith ... **Jas 2**... works demonstrate faith, w/o = dead

From our text we will more fully appreciate what Jesus did for us.

I. Many Christians do not fully appreciate what God did for them in Jesus.

A. Before we were **in** Christ Jesus we were enemies of God.

1. Did you ever feel as if you were God's enemy ? *Most don't, but we all were.*
 - a. Vs. **10** – 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.
 - b. Sin .. i.e., failure to submit to God's rule in your life is rebellion.
 - c. **ALL** sin is a rejection of God's authority *so all sin is rebellion against God.*
2. Our tendency is to look around and compare ourselves to those who are worse.
 - a. *"I'm not as bad as they are, I don't ..."*
 - b. This is to say .. *"They are more dead than I am."* **Are there degrees of death ?**
 - c. Any king (God) will use force to put down that which he perceives to be rebellion.
3. ONLY Jesus can reunite a person with God.

B. When we committed our very first sin, we became objects of the wrath of God.

1. Vs. **9** – Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.
2. God's wrath is not a sudden outburst of anger.
 - a. **Def. :** retributory punishment for an offense or a crime : divine chastisement
 - b. God's wrath is just punishment for violations of His law, for sins committed.
Rom. 6: 23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life ...
3. ONLY Jesus can rescue a person from the punishment he deserves.
 - a. When Jesus returns it will be for final judgment. **ALL** accounts will be paid.
II Thes. 1: 6-8 For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, **7** and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
 - b. The return of Jesus will end ALL rebellion.
Rom. 14: 11 – For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."
 - c. ONLY Jesus can rescue a person from the coming judgment of God.
I Thes. 1: 9-10 ... , and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,**10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

II. Reconciliation can only occur when our penalty is paid. Rom. 6: 23

A. In order to be reunited with God, one must be “justified.”

1. Def. : *dikaioo* ... to render righteous or such as he ought to be. (Strong's)
2. It is sin that makes one unrighteous, condemned, rejected
so sin must be removed in order to make one just.

B. Sin cannot be removed without the shedding of blood.

1. Heb. 9:22b – ... without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
2. Since the penalty for sin is death, a life must be forfeited to make propitiation.
3. The life of an animal cannot atone for or/ substitute for a man. .. Heb. 10: 4

C. Only the blood of Jesus could possibly pay the penalty for the sins of all men.

1. No one could offer up someone else as a human sacrifice ... that would be murder.
2. No person is capable of paying the penalty for another. (Psa. 49: 7-8)
 - a. No one is pure enough to offer himself to pay the penalty ... **all sin**.
 - b. No one person is of sufficient value to pay for the sins of many.
- Vs. 6 – For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
3. Only the sinless Son of God could possibly pay the price. (100% God / 100% man)

D. Thus, those who are IN Christ have been justified.

1. Justification is a legal standing.
 - a. It indicates that the one who is just has no indictment against him. (*as he should be*)
 - b. Rom 8: 1–Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
2. Because they have no sin charged against them,
 - a. There is no separation from God. (Isa. 59: 1-2) *They are reconciled to God.*
 - b. There is no longer a state of enmity between them and God, *but a state of peace.*
- Vs. 1 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,

III. Once a person is justified, he stands in a saved state.

A. When we're justified it's on the basis of faith and it places us into God's grace.

1. Vs. 2 – 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.
 - a. Notice our standing is on the basis of “faith” ... not works, deeds, merit.
 - b. We stand in “grace” ... unmerited favor ... not earned ... not deserved
 - c. Christians are saved in the present ... Acts 15: 11 , I Cor. 15: 2

2. Because of our standing in grace by faith “**we exult in hope of the glory of God.**”

*** a. Note:** *Biblical hope does not indicate uncertainty or the element of chance; it is an anticipation of something to be received in the future.*

b. The Christian awaits the coming of Christ with anticipation ... **NOT fear.**

I John 4: 17-19 By this, love is perfected with us, so that **we may have confidence in the day of judgment**; because as He is, so also are we in this world. **18** There is no fear in love; but **perfect love casts out fear**, because **fear involves punishment**, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. **19** We love, because He first loved us.

3. When the day of wrath comes and Jesus judges the world, Christians will be saved.

a. Vs. **9** – **Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10** 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**.

b. Choosing Jesus now is to choose Heaven as your eternal destiny.

B. Christians live day by day in a saved state. (Rom. 8: 31-39)

1. **Eph. 2: 8-10** For by grace you **have been saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

a. Salvation is an accomplished fact.

b. It is on the basis of faith.

c. Salvation is given as a grace of God, an undeserved gift. (**Rom. 6: 23**)

2. Because it is given on the basis of faith, if faith is removed, salvation is removed.

I Cor. 15: 1-2 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you **stand**, **2** by which also you are saved, **if** you **hold fast the word** which I preached to you, **unless you believed in vain**.

**** God does not force anyone to be saved.**

If you change your mind about the gospel,

you are free to reject it at any time. (LOVE DOES NOT FORCE ITSELF.)

C. Christian ... you ARE saved and God wants you to know that you are saved.

1. **I John 5: 13** – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so **that you may know that you have eternal life**.

2. **HAVE FAITH !! DO NOT DOUBT THE PROMISE OF GOD. DO NOT FEAR !!**

**** If you are in Christ and trusting Him, you can know that you are safe eternally. ****

CONCLUSION :**A. The ancients who said the only motivator to godly living was fear of Hell erred.**

1. Seeing the great love that Jesus had for us, we must never fail to love Him in return.
 - a. He died for us while we were in the process of rejecting Him. (*enemies*)
 - b. Every day He serves us as an intercessor.
 - c. Loving Him will motivate us to seek to please Him ... obey, worship & serve.
2. When we comprehend the peace that comes from living without fear, we will want to share it with others.
 - a. Christians who don't tell other people about what Jesus has done for them don't realize what they have in Christ.
 - b. How could we allow someone we love to drift into Hell when Heaven is available?

B. The saved person who realizes the gravity of his former situation; dead in sin, separated from God, lost, with no hope and without God in the world, (Eph 2:12) will gladly surrender his earthly ambitions to serve the God of eternal glory.

1. Many Christians have never come to grips with their sinfulness.
2. Their faith has not grown to the point that they realize what was done for them.
3. We demonstrate our faith by the life we live and the service we give.
 - a. **James 2: 18 – I will show you my faith by my works.**
 - b. **James 2: 26 ... Faith that does not motivate one to serve actively is DEAD.**

C. Past , present , and future ... we are saved.

1. God did it for us.
2. He wants us to know what He did and feel secure.
3. He wants us to share our salvation with others.

INVITATION :

How will you respond to what God has done for you ?

Lesson Text :**Romans 5: 1-11**

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** 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. **3** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; **4** and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; **5** and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. **10** 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. **11** And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.