

SAVED AND SURE
Romans 5:1-11

Intro: In reading Romans 5 one thing which certainly should impress us is the absolute confidence with which the Apostle Paul writes!

There is no uncertainty, no doubt.

In this, he was like his Lord.

When our Saviour had concluded His sermon on the mount, Matthew concludes his account with these words:

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine; For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matt. 7:28, 29).

The Word of God carries the authority of God.

Whenever we get away from the Word of God, then uncertainty begins to enter our teaching, and uncertainty begins to plague our experience!

Paul speaks of "peace" and joy and "hope" and "love"--the very words which seem to be absent from the experience of many Christians today.

As you read this chapter you realize that Paul had all of these qualities in his life because he was right in his relationship with God--and he was sure of it!

He is not talking about peace and joy which know nothing of tribulation, but peace and joy which are his in the midst of tribulation and trial.

How can he be so sure?

Whenever you talk to some people about being sure of your salvation, of your relationship with God, they think that you are boasting, that you are too sure of yourself. BUT I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS MORNING THAT, IF YOU ARE SAVED AND NOT SURE, THEN IT IS BECAUSE YOU DO NOT KNOW THE MOST BASIC TEACHING OF THE SCRIPTURES AS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW IT!

Let me call your attention to the division which is very apparent in these 11 verses.

In vv. 1-5 Paul is making these very positive claims concerning what Jesus Christ has done for him. And, by the way, chapter 5, verse 1, gives us the first use of our Lord's full name: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, in vv. 6-10 he gives us the reason for his assurance. This is seen in his use of the word, "for," in vv. 6, 7, 10.

Then in v. 11 he continues his thought from v. 5--he is rejoicing again. Note: "And not only so" (v. 3).
"And not only so" (v. 11).

The reason for Paul's assurance, then, is in vv. 6-10.

I. THE BASIS OF HIS ASSURANCE.

One truth is mentioned four times in these five verses. It is THE DEATH OF CHRIST. Cf. vv. 6, 8, 9, 10.

All of us who are Christians accept without any question the description which Paul gives of us here.

Before we were saved, we were:

- (1) "Without strength," weak, powerless, and hopeless because we were helpless. Once we understood what it would take to measure up to God's standards, we also realized that we just did not have what it would take to please God.
- (2) "Ungodly"--also in v. 6. We all must confess that we had not been concerned about being what God wanted us to be. In fact, there were many times when we deliberately chose to be just the opposite.
- (3) "Sinners"--How this grieves us now, to think of the many times we missed the way completely. We know that Isa. 53:6 describes us: "All we like sheep have gone astray . . ." We thought that we knew what was right, but we were so wrong so much of the time--wrong in God's sight.
- (4) "Enemies"--How quick we were to blame God when anything went wrong. If we thought about God at all, we considered Him as One who was trying to take everything that we enjoyed away from us. We may have even wished at time that we could get God out of our minds; maybe we wished that there were no God.

WE KNOW THAT ALL OF THIS IS TRUE. AND IF WE DID NOT GO TO THE LIMIT OF THE FEELINGS THAT ARE BOUND UP IN THESE TERMS, WE KNOW THAT WE HAD THE POTENTIAL--AND THAT WE HAD NO RIGHT TO EXPECT THAT GOD WOULD DO ANYTHING AT ALL FOR US.

This is what makes us marvel that while we were ungodly, while we were sinners, while we were God's enemies, GOD LOVED US, AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR US.

This can be nothing but the grace of God--and how ashamed we are now of what we used to be.

Note that God did not begin to love us when we started to love Him. Nor did He even begin to love us when Christ died for us. THE DEATH OF CHRIST IS PROOF THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS LOVED US AND EVERY OTHER SINNER IN SPITE OF WHAT WE WERE!

But now let us look at these verses to see what we have now because of our faith in a Saviour who died for us as

II. OUR PRESENT POSSESSIONS.

If you want to know the whole story, you must read all of Romans, especially the first 8 chapters. But Paul mentions two things in particular here.

A. Justification.

Cf. v. 9: "Being NOW justified by his blood."

In v. 1 Paul says that he is "justified by faith," but it is by faith in the work of Christ on the Cross. It is not something that I do by believing, but it is a work that He has done for me, and I accept it by faith.

To be justified means that I am forgiven, but it means more than that. It means that Jesus Christ so completely met all of God's demands by His death on the Cross that God now declares me righteous in His sight. All fear of hell is gone because in His sight through Christ I am just what He wants me to be.

Justification has to do with what I am before God. I am not justified because I feel justified; I am justified because the Word of God says I am.

"God says it, I believe it, and that settles it."

But we also have

B. Reconciliation.

Cf. v. 11, "By whom we have NOW received the atonement," or, lit., the reconciliation.

See also v. 10, "being reconciled." This is not what we will be. We are reconciled NOW.

What does this mean?

It means that I have been restored to God's favor! I was His enemy. He has changed all of that, and by

the death of the Lord Jesus, God is now able to pour out His blessings upon me: peace, joy, hope, love, and all of the others. Cf. Eph. 1:3.

Every Christian believes these things, or certainly should.

BUT, someone says, you have it now, but how can you be SURE that you will always have justification and reconciliation?
How do you know that you will be saved for ever?

All right! Let us look at

III. ASSURANCE FOR THE FUTURE.

Now remember the foundation that Paul has laid.

God has proven that He loved us even before Christ died for us!

Then Christ died for us even though we were completely undeserving of His help--but we could never have done anything about our condition ourselves.

Christ's work has been completely satisfying to God. The question of man's sin has been settled forever by the death of Christ on the Cross--and it is settled for us when by faith we received the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour!

Now, TWICE Paul argues in this passage, SINCE HE HAS DONE ALL OF THIS THAT RELATES TO THE PAST AND THE PRESENT, "MUCH MORE" SHALL HE BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE FUTURE.

- A. "Much more then, being NOW justified by his blood, we SHALL BE SAVED from wrath through him (v. 9).

If He has done all that He has done for me, then I can be sure that I will never experience the "wrath" of God which some day will fall on those who "know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 1:8).

- B. "Much more, being reconciled, we SHALL BE SAVED by his life" (v. 10b).

We are not dealing with a dead Christ. He died, but He was raised for the dead. Cf. Rom. 4:25. He "was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."

Cf. Heb. 7:25. Also, John 10:28, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

And please do not say, "No man can pluck us out, but we can jump out ourselves." This is so ridiculous that it hardly deserves an answer. ARE YOU GREATER THAN THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD? ARE YOU SO INTENT ON BELIEVING THAT THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT YOU WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PLAIN TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE?

As long as you look at your experience FIRST and the Word of God SECOND, you will never have assurance.

But, when you say, I have received Jesus Christ as my Saviour, and this is what God says of me in His Word-- then you will have assurance, not only for your life time, but for all eternity, and you, too, will have the peace, and joy, and hope, and love that Paul had.

For every look you take at yourself, take ten looks at the work of Christ on the cross. And then see that He is not on the Cross, nor is He in the tomb, but He was exalted to the Father's right hand, and He is perfectly able to keep you until He takes you home.

Concl: Do you see why we are to observe the Lord's Supper?

Because in the Lord's Supper all of this wonderful truth is brought freshly back to our minds. It is His broken body and His shed blood that are the ground of my assurance--and the Lord never wants us to lose sight of this.

As we observe the Lord's Supper this morning, will you not thank Him that there is no question about the eternal character of your salvation?

There is nothing more certain more certain in all of the universe than that ~~HE WHO BELIEVETH ON HIM SHALL HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE~~ which our Lord said in John 5:24,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, HATH everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death unto life."