

Romans Session 61

The Security of Salvation 1

Romans 5:1-11 (NASB)

- 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.*

When we were together last time we were talking about the security of Salvation. And we said that One of Satan's primary tactics against believers is that of making them doubt that salvation is secure forever or that it is real in their personal lives.

We talked about the helmet of salvation, that is given the believer to protect his mind against such attacks.

The questions and objections Paul now addresses pertains to how salvation is maintained. He has already established that it is received by faith from the gracious hand of God. But the question now is ok if that is true then how is that redemption preserved?

If the preservation of salvation depends on what believers themselves do or do not do, their salvation is only as secure as their faithfulness, which provides no security at all.

According to that view believers must protect by their own human power what Christ began by His divine power.

To counteract such presumption and its consequent hopelessness Paul assured the Ephesian church with these comforting words:

Ephesians 1:18-21 (NASB)

- ¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,*
¹⁹ *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might*
²⁰ *which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,*
²¹ *far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.*

The Apostle points out here in this passage that it is of great importance for us to be aware of the security we now have and forever will have in Christ, a security that does not depend on our own sinful and futile efforts but on the *"surpassing greatness of His power toward us"*, and on *"the strength of His might."*

That truth is the cornerstone of the feeling of assurance.

Our hope is not in ourselves but in our great God, who, even if "we are faithless", he remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:13 (NASB)

²³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Isaiah describes God's faithfulness as a belt about His waist;

Isaiah 11:5 (NASB)

⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

David says;

Psalms 36:5 (NASB)

⁵ Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

And Jeremiah says;

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NASB)

²² The LORD'S loving kindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

The Hebrew writer says;

Hebrews 10:23 (NASB)

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

While, continued, faith is necessary, our being able to hold fast is founded upon the Lord's faithfulness, not our own.

In developing his argument in the book of Romans against the destructive notion that believers must live in uncertainty about the completion of their salvation, Paul presents six "links" in the chain of truth that binds a true believer eternally to his Savior and Lord, completely apart from any effort or merit on the believer's part.

Those links are:

1. **The believer's peace with God. (5:1)**
2. **His standing in Grace. (5:2a)**
3. **His hope of Glory. (5:2b-5a)**
4. **His possession of divine love. (5:5b-8)**
5. **His certainty of deliverance. (5:9-10)**
6. **His Joy in the Lord. (5:11)**

Let's start with the first one;

THE BELIEVER'S PEACE WITH GOD

Romans 5:1 (NASB)

¹ *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

This first link in the unbreakable chain that eternally binds believers to Christ is their peace with God. The term **therefore** connects Paul's present argument with what he has already said, especially in chapters 3 and 4. In those chapters, Paul, has established that we have **been justified by faith**.

Because of our justification by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The verb translated **we have** is in the present tense, indicating something that is already possessed.

Many of a believer's blessings must await is resurrection and glorification, but **peace with God** is established the moment he places his trust in the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

The **peace** that Paul is speaking about here is not subjective but objective.

It is not a feeling but a fact. Through his trust in **Jesus Christ**, a sinner's war with God is ended for all eternity.

Most unsaved people do not think themselves at war with God. Because they have no conscious feelings of hate for Him and do not actively oppose His work or contradict His Word, they consider themselves, at worst to be neutral about God.

But no such neutrality is possible. The mind of every unsaved person is at peace only with the things of the flesh, and therefore by definition is hostile toward God and cannot be otherwise.

Romans 8:7 (NASB)

⁷ *because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,*

After the famous missionary David Livingstone, had spent several years among the Zulus of South Africa, he went with his wife and young child into the interior to minister. When he returned, he discovered that an enemy tribe had attacked the Zulus, killed many of the people, and taken the chief's son captive. The Zulu Chief did not want to make war with the other tribe, but he poignantly asked Dr. Livingstone, "How can I be at peace with them while they hold my son prisoner?"

Commenting on that story, Donald Grey Barnhouse wrote, "If this attitude is true in the heart of a savage chief, how much more is it true of God the Father toward those who trample under foot His Son, who count the blood of the covenant wherewith they were set apart as an unholy thing, and who continue to despise the Spirit of grace. (Heb. 10:29)?"

Not only are all unbeliever's enemies of God but God is also the enemy of all unbelievers, to the degree that He is angry with them every day

Psalms 7:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.*

God is the enemy of the sinner and that enmity cannot end until the sinner places his trust in **Jesus Christ**.
Every person who is not a child of God is a child of Satan;

John 8:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴ "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Every person who is not a citizen of the Kingdom of God is a citizen of Satan's kingdom.
But on the cross, Christ took upon Himself all the fury of God's wrath that sinful mankind deserves.
And those who trust in Christ are no longer God's enemies and no longer under His wrath, but are at peace with Him.

Paul assured the Colossian believers;

Colossians 1:19-22 (NASB)

*¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,
²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,
²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*

The most immediate consequence of justification is reconciliation, which is the theme of Romans 5.
Reconciliation with God brings peace with God.
That peace is permanent and irrevocable, because Jesus Christ, through whom believers receive their reconciliation, always lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25)

Hebrews 8:12 (NASB)

¹² "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

Hebrews 10:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

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 the Father.
In fact, Christ not only brings peace to the believer but;

Ephesians 2:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,

Although the peace of which Paul is speaking in this passage is the objective peace of being reconciled to God, awareness of that objective truth gives the believer a deep and wonderful subjective peace as well.

To know that one is a child of God, a brother of Jesus Christ, cannot but give Christians what Charles Hodge called the "*sweet quiet of the soul*" So, the first wonderful link is this peace with God. "All is well, with my soul" says the Hymn.