

Romans, pt.8, 10.29.06

Romans 5.1–11

We were...but, because...we are...

Introduction

1. Review – under God’s judgement; only faith in Christ; Abraham believed God’s promise and was made right; the same is true for us.
2. Romans 5 – 8 describes what comes after salvation; ch.5 is full of joy & confidence; it’s highlights many of the benefits we enjoy b/c our faith is in Js.
3. It’s like having traveled a hard day and to turn into the resort late at night. You awaken refreshed the next morning & see all the things you couldn’t late at night.
4. the pattern – we were...; but, because of...; we are...
5. Read text

We were...

- Utterly helpless (v.6)
 - Completely unable to save myself; caught in sinking sand with no hope of escape.
 - NIV – “still powerless”
 - w/o Christ this is the condition of us all;
 - Appl. – as long as you see yourself as having the ability to deal with your spiritual condition then you won’t seek God’s way of salvation
- Sinners (v.7–8)
 - Stark contrast between morally good people & sinners. In part, we see a chasm between human love & divine love. I’ll give myself for the lovely – children or ideal – but I’ll not give myself for the unlovely – murderer, pedophiles, abusive. Human loves has its limitations
 - Word means to miss the target; other ideas “fall short of the standard

- Under God's judgment and destined for eternal punishment (v.9-10)
 - w/in this text you have the contrast between God's love & wrath. How do you reconcile the two?
 - Jesus made it clear that there was coming a day of judgment when every person would give an account for their life...don't minimize that day...and pretend some fast talking and quick deal making will and "it will all work out" mentality will save you. There are no deals; it's the day of your sentencing...by your decisions in this life, you've already sealed the deal in the next.
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 - How do you reconcile God's love with God's anger?
 - Some people see the relationship between the Father & Son the same as between the good cop & bad cop? The Father has a bad attitude, dogmatic & aggressive; Jesus has a good attitude, diplomatic & conciliatory.
 - Yet, when looking at Jesus you see the mirror image of His father.
 - They both love mankind, but inside us is a virus that he hates. The virus if it isn't dealt with will destroy us. We think it's either okay or not that big of deal. Only God can see how fully it is impacting us. God is dead set against the virus & is doing everything w/in his power to help us see the antidote, the blood of Jesus. If we walk away, then we must live with the present and eventually eternal consequences of that sin.
 - God loves sinners, but He hates the virus that's killing them. Just as you may hate cancer rather than the person who has it.
 - 1 Thes.1.10 - the coming day of wrath
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- Enemies of God (v.10)
 - Col.1.20-22

- No neutrality or moral amnesty. It's aggressive behavior; we know when we do wrong, yet resist doing right. We know what our conscience says, but do the opposite. We resist anyone imposing their will on our own.
- We are an enemy of God when we don't act upon the truth and resist his authority over our lives.
- We are opposed to God ("I'll not put up with your rule or rules.") and God is opposed to us ("I'll not tolerate your sin.")
- Aa

But, because of...

- God's great love (v.8)
 - All that I am, have or shall become emanates from the love of God.
 - God loves me & God is for me!!!
 - Go back to last week's message & ask the question, "Is God happy/pleased with you?" the pleasure/love of God is always shining down. God is well pleased with you if your faith is in Jesus. The only time you don't feel it is when you're covered. You can either be covered because you chose to walk into a cave or because it's overcast. If it's overcast, then God is behind the cloud cover. It's a hardship or trial you're going through and inside your heart is shining God's love (Frodo & the light). If you choose to walk in darkness due to sin or apathy, it becomes like going through a cave with no light. The sun is shining outside, but you have to get out of the cave. God's pleasure/love isn't like a light switch. When you're good it's "on" and when you're bad, it's "off." God's pleasure/love is always shining, you have to leave the darkness...God will make it so you do.
 - V.7-8 is a little confusing how it's written. One transl - "Even for one who is righteous or good, you will scarcely find

anyone willing to sacrifice his life – well, perhaps you might find a person or two who would go so far as to do so – but God shows his love for us in Christ sacrificing his life for those who were neither righteous nor good, but ungodly sinners.”

- Human love will go to greatest lengths for those it loves, but not for the unlovely.
- God on the other hand “demonstrates” or better “proves” his love by initiating forgiveness, even when we were apathetic and cared nothing for him.
- Love is primarily an action and not a sentiment. God has feelings for us, but the height of his love was demonstrated by Christ on the cross. (1 John 3.1, 16)
- The blood of Jesus (v.1, 6, 8 – 11)
 - V.1 – “what Jesus has done for us”; v.6 – “Christ died for sinners”; v. 8 – “Christ to die for us”; v.9 – “we have been made right in God’s sight by the blood of Christ”; v.10 – “by the death of his Son.”; v.11 – “what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us.”
 - The Scripture is clear. The only way to be made right with God is through the blood of Jesus. “w/o the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”
 - Trying to be made right with god by your own effort is like trying to wash a dirty car with no water. All you do is move the dirt from one spot to another; limited success; certainly not perfection!
 - Old hymn: What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
- Our faith in Jesus (v.1–2)
 - We access the forgiveness of God through the shed of Jesus by faith. It’s not enough to see the demonstration of God’s love through the shed blood of Jesus, you must have your faith in him.
 - Quote 5.1–2 together
 - Last weeks message & verses on faith:

- 3.22 – We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins.
- 3.25 – We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.
- 3.26 – God is entirely fair and just in this present time when he declares sinner to be right in his sight because they believe in Jesus.
- 3.27 – Our acquittal is not based on our good deeds. It is based on our faith.
- 3.28 – we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.
- 3.30 – He makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jew or Gentiles.
- 4.4 – People are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their works.
- 4.9 – We have been saying he (Abraham) was declared righteous by God because of his faith.
- 4.11 – they are made right with God by faith.
- 4.13 – It is clear...that’s God’s promise to give the whole earth to Abraham & his descendants...was...based on the new relationship with God that comes by faith.
- 4.16 – Faith is the key!...we are certain to receive it (God’s free gift)...if we have faith like Abraham’s.
- 4.22 – b/c of Abraham’s faith, God declared him to be righteous.
- 4.24 – God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God, who brought Jesus our Lord back from the dead.
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We are...

- Made right with God (v.1)
 - “Justified” – declared innocent; legal standing before God; not based on how I feel, but on what God has declared.
 - This act of justification then opens the door to the following three realities

- At peace with God (v.1)
 - This is both an objective reality & a subjective experience. “I am at peace with God” and “I feel peace with God.”
 - The hostility has ended. I have declared him Lord and I’m no longer at odds with his reign. I’ve gone over to his side and now serve in his army.
- Standing in the place of highest privilege (v.2)
 - NIV: “gained access” – It’s the privilege of being introduced and approaching a person of royalty.
 - It is more than gaining an audience...like meeting the President or Pope...30 minutes...handshake...shuffled out the door...
 - Rather it is a permanent position of privilege...iow, I’m part of the inner circle...he knows me by name...and values my friendship
 - Eph.2.18; 3.12
- Confidently (Boasting) and joyfully looking forward to sharing in God’s glory (v.2)
 - B/c of the death of Christ, we can move toward the goal he had in mind in creation. As one transl. reads: “Let us exult in our hope of attaining God’s glorious ideal.”
 - In this life & in the next, we can boast that it is possible to live in relationship with God in the manner that He designed.
- Dearly loved by God, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love (v.5)
 - V.3–5 is about enduring hardship through the power of God’s love working in our lives
 - The HS will give us assurance that God is for us during hardships.
 - NIV: “God has poured out his love” – the idea is that of a continual flow of God’s love pouring in our lives.
 - Here’s what you need to know & experience when you’re going through problem: God loves me...God is for me.

- What this passage is saying is that God will make you deeply aware of God's love for you...like a cloudburst on parched ground.
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 - The HS will help us endure
 - It's not passive endurance, but aggressive empowerment...an overcoming attitude.
 - The HS will use the hardship to develop positive virtues in our lives – perseverance, character & hope. When you see these traits develop, it a clear marker of God's love for you!
- Friends with God (v.10–11)
 - “restored to friendship” – Restored means to turn it back to its original condition. What Adam lost because of his sin, I have now regained because of my faith. We are relationally taken back to the place of Adam & Eve in the garden with God. There is no longer any separation, but an open door into the house of God.
 - God initiated the activity through the death of His Son & I reciprocated by faith in Him. Now, I am God's friend.
 - God said, Abraham is my friend (Is.41.8); Moses is my friend (Ex.33.11); Jesus called his disciples “friends” (John 15,15); now the Father & Son says to all of us, “You are my friends.”