

“Grace & Peace to You”
A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

Bible Class Instructor: *Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member*

ROMANS LESSON 32 PART 1: “MUCH MORE...”

ROMANS 5:6-11 *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, **MUCH MORE** shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, **MUCH MORE**, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

¹¹ **MORE THAN THAT**, *we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

PAUL’S LETTER TO THE ROMANS has reached an incredible pinnacle: revealing God’s Love shown in redeeming us from SIN. THIS Love is our comfort, confidence, and companion as we walk through EVERY trial of Life. At every occurrence of “pressure” He is there to add strength, build character, and give us hope that we are well-able to overcome in ANY trial that could come. HE LOVES US!

As Paul continues his presentation, he reveals just how amazing this LOVE of God is: It began when we were at our worst, rescued us from wrath, and grants us unlimited blessings in the future.

*In the best imitation of an **Emeril Lagasse Informercial** it just keeps getting better...*

You get **“Much more...”** (vs9) AND it also includes, **“Much More...”** (vs10)
And, God is not finished yet, there is **“More than that...”** (vs11)

PROVING HIS LOVE

The **COMING OF CHRIST**, and **THE DEATH OF CHRIST**, are the **proof of GOD’S LOVE**.
Sometimes it is stated as if:

On the one side there was a gentle and loving Christ...

*And **on the other** an angry and vengeful God.*

AS IF Christ had done something...

*Which **changed God’s attitude** toward Humanity.*

NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. *The whole matter springs from the love of God.*

Jesus did not come **to change God’s attitude...**

*He came **to show what it is and always was.***

He came to prove beyond question that **GOD IS LOVE.**

THIS section clearly sets forth this TRUTH!

The **“wonder of JESUS CHRIST”** is that he died for us **when we are sinners and in a state of hostility to God.**
Love can go no further than that.

ROM 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, MUCH MORE shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, MUCH MORE, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

There are 4 Sentences in the next 5 Verses that support the gracious blessings that are realized by the ones who have THROUGH FAITH been “justified through the blood of Jesus Christ.” [Rom 5:1-5]

➤ **Vs 6)** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

The **FIRST SENTENCE** (5:6) supports the previous sentence by highlighting a specific way God shows his love to us: while we were still morally weak, powerless, helpless, “Christ died for the ungodly.”

- Weak... Powerless... Helpless... Ungodly... Sinners... Enemies... It doesn’t get any more descriptive of humanity’s condition than this.
- The “theological term used is “Depravity” – Not just “bad” BUT “bad-off” – nothing to help us.
- Is there a more generous way that God could demonstrate that he loves us?

➤ **VSS 7-8)** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The **SECOND SENTENCE** (5:7–8) explains / illuminates the power of the previous one (5:6).

- It is rare for a person to die in the place of another person, even if that person is morally upright; you might choose to die for a person who has done much good to you, or stands as innocent or helpless (*perhaps a benefactor or close friend or family member – Soldiers / First Responders / Prisoners-of-war / Good Samaritans*)

ROMANS LESSON 32 PART 2: “MUCH MORE...”

- But Christ did not die in the place of good or innocent people.
 - Christ died in the place of “the ungodly” (5:6; compare 4:5 *And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, HIS FAITH is counted as righteousness,*)
 - In the place of “sinners” (5:8)
 - In the place of his “enemies” (5:10).

God’s love for us far surpasses the most noble of human love.

➤ **Vs 9)** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, MUCH MORE shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

The **THIRD SENTENCE** (5:9) is an “illustration” of the impact of the of this “overwhelming Love.” (5:6–8). In using the phrases, *“Much more... much more... more than that,”* Paul uses a Greek linguistic structure that argues from a greater point to a lesser point (*IF this is true, THEN of course this is true ALSO*)

The literal idea is:

“from the heavier to the lighter; from the harder to the easier; from the primary to the secondary.”
This is **NOT** a statement of *“value / importance / rank.”*

JUSTIFICATION...

- The **GREATER WORK**: Christ **died** for us WHILE we were sinners, and *“we **have now been justified by his blood**”*—that is, God has declared us to be righteous on the basis of Christ’s death as our substitute – *BEFORE we were changed.*
- The **LESSER WORK**: SINCE that is true... Christ’s **death** will certainly save us from God’s wrath which is to come

1 THESS. 1:10 *“...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”*

HEB 7:23-25 *The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.*

²⁵ *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

1 THESS 5:9, 10 *For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.*

The Church Father, CHRYSOSTOM said:

“If God gave a great gift to His enemies, will He give anything less to His friends?”

The phrases *“we **have been justified by faith**”* (ROM. 5:1) and *“we **have now been justified by his blood**”* (5:9) may raise a question: *How do the “by” phrases differ?*

We are not justified *“by faith”* AND *“by his blood”* in the same way. The phrases are not synonymous.

- *“by **[ek]** faith”* (5:1). Faith is the **means** / the **agency** / the **action** by which God justifies us. It is a human activity to which God responds by imparting to us a state of *“right-standing with Him.”*
- *“by **[en]** his blood”* (5:9). Jesus’s sacrificial death in our place is the **substitutionary basis** on which God justifies us – it is *“because of the offering **OF His blood FOR us.**”*

➤ **Vs 10)** *For if while we were enemies **we were reconciled** to God by the death of his Son, **MUCH MORE**, now that **we are reconciled**, shall we be saved by his life.*

The **FOURTH SENTENCE** (5:10) presents a further truth. **BUT** here, as Paul again argues *from the greater to the lesser*, the subject is **NOT “justification” BUT “reconciliation.”**

RECONCILIATION...

- The **GREATER WORK**: While we were God’s **enemies**, **GOD RECONCILED** us to himself *“by the death of his Son.”* Now through faith *“we have peace with God”* (5:1).
- The **LESSER WORK**: Christ’s resurrected life will certainly save us from God’s wrath in the future. As in the previous extension of this ACT of God we have been removed from any place whereby we **COULD** face the Wrath of God...

OUR CONFIDENT REJOICING

ROM 5:11 *More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Being “*saved by His Life*” (vs 10) is a glorious reality. BUT it is FAR MORE THAN THAT...

It is the source of our “boasting / rejoicing / TRIUMPHING!”

- In **ROMANS 1:18–32**, Paul explained how mankind declared war on God and, because of this, deserved to be condemned eternally.
 - **But God did not declare war on man.** Instead, He sent His Son as the Peacemaker / the Sacrifice: *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,* ²⁰ *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*
²¹ *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,* ²² *he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*
- Where **reconciliation** is mentioned in the NEW TESTAMENT, God or Christ is always the **reconciler**, and human beings are the object of his **reconciling act**.
 - God “*through Christ reconciled us to himself*”... Therefore, men and women throughout the earth are beckoned in Christ’s name to ‘*be reconciled to God*’ (2 COR. 5:18, 20).
 - The situation may be compared to that of a King proclaiming an amnesty for rebellious subjects, who are **urged to accept** his gracious pardon **while it is extended to them**.
 - God’s abhorrence of sin does not make him the enemy of sinners or seek their death; his desire is for all ‘*to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*’ (1 TIM. 2:4).
- Although both **justification** and **reconciliation** are related, they are distinct concepts.
 - **Justification** is a legal term which pictures the believer being declared righteous by God (CF. 3:24).
 - **Reconciliation** is a relational term that occurred through Christ’s death. Christ “*became sin for us,*” so that *we might become “the righteousness of God in Him”* (2 COR 5:20–21).
- God **reconciled the world to Himself** by **removing the universal sin barrier** *whether or not people become believers*. God’s **universal reconciliation** makes people “savable.”
- This could not be said of **justification** since God ONLY **justifies believers**.
- The expression when we were enemies, we **were reconciled** to God refers to His **universal reconciliation**, similar to what is said in 5:8.
- When sinners believe God’s promise of eternal life through Christ (ROM 3:25; 2 COR 5:20, 21), which is only possible because of **reconciliation** through the cross, they are **declared righteous** and **have peace with God** (5:1).

If God reconciled His enemies to Himself **through the death of His Son**, then someone who has believed in Jesus can **much more** expect to be **saved by His life**.

ROM 5:12-21... “IN ADAM... IN CHRIST”