

## Justified, Delivered, And Reconciled – Romans 5:6-11

Bible Study ~ 6/1/16

Grace Church of Lockeford

Last week we looked at the first part of this chapter. We learned that we are blessed by getting peace with God, growth through tribulation, and hope that strengthens us. Over the next few times together we will continue the chapter learning how we are justified, delivered, and reconciled. **First we find that we are...**

### 1. Justified By His Blood vv. 6-9a

V. 9 tells us we have been justified by his blood. Vv. 6-8 tell us how that was possible.

V. 6

Still w/o strength. Still – *without change, interruption, or cessation*. We are without strength in accomplishing our own salvation. “Without strength” – *weak; sick. Wanting in moral strength, courage, or will*. This is what we were when Christ died for us! We have always been without strength and we always will be! We were w/o strength. This is the necessary background or foundation for Christ’s death for us. If we had strength, if there existed within us the ability to change our own status, Christ would not have had to die. But because we were without strength, Christ died for us when we were ungodly. This death occurred in “due time” – *season; time. Opportune time, a time that is suitable or advantageous for a particular purpose*. At the exact right, the perfect, opportune time, that perfect moment that would best fit with the plan and purpose of God, that is when Christ died. Died – *die. To pass from physical life and lose all bodily attributes and functions necessary to sustain life*. Jesus’ body was separated from His soul and spirit. He literally, physically died. And He did this for the ungodly! Ungodly – *impious, irreverent. A person lacking proper veneration and practice (toward those whom such is owed); usually toward God*. Christ died for sinners! He died for those who were w/o strength, those who could never deliver themselves; who were opposed to Him! And as if these were not blessing enough, Paul goes on.

V. 7

Scarcely – *with difficulty; only rarely. Almost not, with belabored effort*. It is difficult and rare to find someone who would die for a righteous man. Someone who is just, who lives with righteous actions and morals. It has happened, that someone would die for a perceived righteous person, but it is rare. Perhaps – *possibly, with a possibility or probability of happening*. For a good man, someone who is good to other people, kind, generous, loving; there is a slight possibility that some would die for him. Paul is speaking in the realm of human experience. These are the times or situations where someone might be willing to die for another. But that’s not what God did!

V. 8

The word “but” introduces the contrast. This is one of my most favorite phrases in Scripture. “But God”. It is contrast, intervention, and a declaration that God isn’t like us! He is not only willing to die for those who are righteous or good. God knows that our righteousness is filthy rags! That we are hopelessly lost! And so He demonstrates His love differently. Demonstrates – *recommend; commend. To demonstrate – to provide evidence for; stand as proof of; show by one’s behavior, attitude, or external attributes*. God evidences his love, His agape – *sacrificial love that is willing to do what is best for the one loved, for us*. How? He evidences it by dying for us while we were sinners. “Still sinners” is the same as v. 6 “still w/o strength”. *Without change, interruption, or cessation*. We are born sinners, we are always sinners and nothing we do on our own will change our sinful state! Sinners – *a person who has disobeyed any divine command or neglected any duty (whether intentionally or unintentionally)*. We are disobedient to God! We have broken His divine commands. And it is in that state that Christ died for us. Christ’s death for us is necessary because of the background information given here. We were still sinners. This is the foundation for Christ’s death. The fact that, after all our lives of trying to do good through law keeping or whatever; the fact that we were still sinners is what necessitated the death of Christ. Not only that, it was in the condition of being sinners that God loved us and demonstrated that love. He doesn’t require

us to clean up our lives before we come to Him. He doesn't die for righteous people. He died for sinners! Those who were without strength and ungodly. Because He has died for us, we are justified.

V. 9

We will deal with most of this verse next time we are together. For now, I just want to focus on the second phrase. Having now been justified by His blood. Having been justified – *justify, declare righteous. To be or become judicially vindicated as having complied with the requirements of the law (of God)*. We are declared righteous. Not through works. Not through the blood of animals. Not through giving, or church attendance, or prayer, or baptism, or anything else! We are justified by His blood! Now – *at the present moment*. Right now, we who believe are justified by His blood. Justified by His blood, yet that justification is not applied until one believes according to v. 1. Justification comes by faith. Not by works of righteousness that we have done! So Christ died for us, God demonstrated His love for us through Christ's death on the Cross.

We could stop right there and be overwhelmed by the grace and blessing of our God! That the Lord of all eternity. The God of heaven and earth would step into time, humble Himself to take on human flesh, flesh that He had created out of nothing, flesh that was weak and insufficient to truly contain Him, that He would endure temptation, testing, trial, abuse, and rejection and then that He would allow sinful men to mock, scourge, beat, spit on Him, curse Him, rip the beard from His face, crown Him with thorns, drive nails through His hands and feet, and ultimately give His own life on the Cross! That He would go through all of that, not for righteous people, not for those who honored and loved Him, but for those who were powerless to save themselves yet ever striving to do so, for those who actively opposed Him as His enemies, for those who were ungodly, wicked, sinners in heart and mind. That He would endure all of this for a sinner such as I, this is a greater blessing than my mind and heart can contain!

**CHALLENGE:** Contemplate what it took for Christ to justify us by His blood. Live in light of His sacrifice!