

Romans 5:6~10

The last recorded words of Jesus in the book of Matthew, are these...

...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

God's wrath towards us, has been appeased... And now we stand in the unmerited favor of God! Before we came to Christ, we were standing as the enemy of God, standing in judgment. But now, through Faith in Christ, we now stand in a position to receive the "*unspeakable blessings*" of God.

I would to God, that he would use me, along with this text, to help us all realize the tremendous blessings we have in Christ! If we were to comprehend, what this passage is saying, we would walk in JOY!

Because we are at "*Peace with God*" we stand in the "*Grace of God...*"

²*By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand...*

What does Paul mean when he says... We now stand in *grace*?

It speaks of our "*New Position*" in with God...By our faith in Christ...

We have moved from being the "Object of His Wrath" to being the "Object of His Affection!"

Grace means "*Unmerited favor, underserved goodness, unearned love...*"

T: *It means that we don't have to "live up to a certain standard" in order to be loved!*

It means, that through "*Faith in Christ...*" we do not have to EARN approval with God! It is not on the basis of our "*good works*" or "*goodness*" that we receive God's blessings and love.

Listen, to "*Stand in God's Grace*" means He loves you just the way you are... We often feel so inadequate...and unworthy... But in Grace, we do not have to "*please Him*" in order to receive His love! He lavishly pours out His love on us, solely on the basis of "*His Goodness!*"

Our faith in His Son means that we no longer conform to the Law, trying to WORK for His approval. This is at the "heart" of what Jesus says in...

(Matthew 11:25~30)²⁵At that time Jesus answered and said, *I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.* ²⁶Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. ²⁷All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knows the Son, but the Father; neither knows any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*. ²⁸Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke *is* easy, my burden is light.

Christ is simply saying... You don't have to EARN my affection... Something that Paul has already declared impossible to do any way!...*just come as you are...*

The amazing thing about this is, that Paul reveals to us, that this is the way that God has chosen, to conform us into his people... That's what Paul is speaking of in verses 3~5...

³*And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation works patience;* ⁴*And patience, experience; and experience, hope;* ⁵*And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

(Vs3~4) According to the scripture... The "*End of Tribulations*" is what? **HOPE...**

Paul says, being followers of Christ...no matter what "Life" may throw at us, no matter what comes our way, regardless of what we go through...the struggles we battle with...we have the assurance that God loves us, that He allows them, and uses them to "build us up"...to "build into us" to "grow us..."

That's what that word "*experience*" means... **Character**...

It is through the *Love of God* that we are changed...not conformity to the Law!

The more and more we "*experience*" His love in our lives, the more and more we are changed by it! Paul declares, that God uses "Tribulations" to "*Build into us*" the character of God!

What is it he is building? **Hope**...**Faith**... Abandonment of SELF, and Trust in Him! That is the true measure of Christian Growth! To be a "light" in this world, won't come as a result of "*my goodness*..." To be light & salt is to exemplify "faith in God" and to be a people praise, people who exalt the Lord Jesus and praise God for His Grace toward sinners! That way other sinners will know, that they too can be accepted with God!

Paul says we can "rejoice" not only in the "good times", when things are going well, but we can rejoice in the "bad times" when things aren't going so well! Because we know, that God is on our side!

Listen, in order for us to enjoy this promise of God, and truly be able to experience rejoicing in every situation, regardless of what Life may bring our way... We MUST UNDERSTAND a very important principle in which this promise is made.

This promise is true only on the basis of "*Faith!*"

We are prone to feel, that we earn God's favor, on the basis of our merit, on the basis of our worthiness! We often feel that when we are "*Living Right*," we receive God's favor and blessings...

But Paul says, that God's promise to fight for you, to be on your side, to love you unconditionally, has nothing to do with "*our faithfulness!*" The promise is based on "*His Faithfulness!*" (4:13~16)

Those who walk in "*Faith*" are blessed beyond comprehension...

Regardless of what Life may throw at us, where we may find ourselves...regardless of our shortcomings and failures...we "*know*" with "*Complete confidence*" that God is on our side!

How can you have such confidence?

(Vs 5) By faith in the "*gospel of Christ*..." We have this confidence, this "*hope*", **based on knowing the love that God has for us!** The love of God, is the HOPE of the Gospel!

In verses 6~11, Paul explains what has to be, one of the most glorious truths in scripture... He helps us understand, what "faith in Christ" brings to us, the blessings of being a Christian!

There's a good principle in this passage...

"Think about it...if while we were the enemies of God, He would offer up His Son for us...how much more will He do for us, now that we are his friends!"

The scriptures "reveal" to us...God. He is made known through scripture... And here in Romans 5:6~11, Paul tells us, that the God he sees in scripture, is one that is "Faithful!" And a God of tremendous LOVE!

The statement Paul makes in verse 6, is a conclusion that Paul come to, in light of history!

⁶For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

It's a reference to God's "Faithfulness" to "Rescue the Perishing!"

He is a "helper" of the "helpless..." It's a statement that covers from the time of man's fall, to Christ coming and picking him up!

⁶For **when** we were yet **without strength**... It speaks to "a time" when we were "helpless..." A time when we were without hope... Which is a reference to the time period of the fall of Adam, to the death of Christ! From the time of man's fall, and separation from God, to the time of man's rescue, and reconciliation to God! A subject Paul goes into more detail, here in verses 12~21...

⁶For when we were yet without strength, **in due time** Christ died for the ungodly.

...in due time Christ died for the ungodly. When the time **was right**... In just the right time, when it seemed there was no hope, when man was utterly helpless to help himself... **God came to the rescue!**

It is on this principle, that Paul declared the promise in verses 3~4, that no matter where we may find ourselves, God will come to our rescue, regardless of the condition we are in, He will deliver us!

Not because we are "worthy" of God's help, not because we are living in such a way that "earns" His help... It has nothing to do with "our faithfulness..." but with "His Faithfulness!" God is faithful!

In verses 7~8, Paul shares principle, one that if we UNDERSTAND it right, will build tremendous faith into our lives!

⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

It speaks to God's "Amazing Love!"

It's hard to comprehend this truth... It's hard to "believe" that God would offer up His Son, for undeserving, unworthy sinners, His very enemies!

I believe, the reason we have such a hard time believing it, is the fact that we are surround by just the opposite! We have trouble with it, because man loves on the basis of worthiness!

Paul says...

-It's possible, that a man would give his life, for a man of whom they greatly admired and respected!

-And I guess there's even a possibility, that one would die, for a good man, one they admire...

But God... **showed** his love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, his enemies, Christ died for us!

Grace! God's unmerited favor!

And in verse 9, Paul declares, based on that truth, knowing that Christ died for us, when we were totally helpless in our sin, how much more will He help us, now that we are his friends!

⁹Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

¹⁰For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

If God would go as far as to “*Kill His Son*” for us, while we were in the deepest depths of our sin, while enemies of righteousness...

Will He not be faithful to help us, and deliver us from anything we encounter in this life?
Will He not be faithful to walk beside us, and pick us up when we fall?

If God went as far, as to die for His enemy...do you not think that He will fight for you, protect you, help you, and love you no matter what?

¹⁰*For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Do you think, He will abandon you now?

Do you think that our shortcomings, our failures, our weaknesses...stand in the way of God’s help and blessings in our lives?

Listen Beloved... I’m speaking to those “**Who Believe**” in the “*Sacrificial offering of Christ for our sins!*” Those who “do not” trust in their “*good deeds,*” their “*righteous actions*” based on conformity to the law of God, the word of God... To those who do not trust in themselves in any way for righteousness, but place their trust in the blood of Jesus...

Knowing that Christ DIED...while we were yet sinners...utterly depraved, helpless, wretched, enemies of God! Knowing that... What can you do, that will cause God to turn His back on you?

If He was willing to die for you, when you weren’t even His child, but an enemy!
Don’t you think, He’ll come to “your rescue” when you are His Child?

Beloved, here me... **The “Love of God” has no boundaries...**

In Ephesians, Paul prays... ¹⁴For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹And to know the love of Christ, which passes knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

God “**Proved**” that to us...when He offered up His Son on the Cross-while we were yet sinners, His enemies!

I am no longer the “*Object of His Wrath...*” but the “*Object of His Love...*” Because of what Christ has done, I will enjoy nothing but blessings all the days of my life...

Wherever we are...Whatever our circumstances...Whatever we do...Whatever we go through...
We have the promise that...**He will never leave you, nor forsake you...**

Because of my “faith in Christ,” I too can say with King David...

⁶*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*