

SALT Church

Romans 5:1-11

“Who Are We?”

September 28, 2025

“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

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Recap: (Key Verses)

Romans 4:14-15

¹⁴ If God’s promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary, and the promise is pointless. ¹⁵ For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it.

- This gives us insight as to how the Roman Jews were thinking and teaching.
- As we have said before, **Paul through the Holy Spirit is not saying that the Law is bad.**
- He is saying that the Law cannot save you.
- If we could keep the Law, then faith would not be needed **nor would the promises that come with being faithful.**
- Verse 15 makes it very clear,
 - All that the Law can do is point out our failures.

- All the law does is bring punishment for those who break it.

Romans 4:18

*¹⁸ Even when there was **no reason** for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations.*

- What I love about the Bible is that it's hero's (**with the exception of Jesus**) are very flawed.
- Abraham is no exception, he lied on several very important occasions.
- He put his wife in danger several occasions. (Because of his lies)
 - But Abraham believed in the promises of God.
 - Abraham had faith that God could do what He said He could do.
 - This is what is expected of us.
 - That is the definition of faith.

Romans 4:20

²⁰ Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.

- **Think about that statement**, the more difficult to believe in the promises of God, the greater **Abraham's faith grew**.
 - This is the kind of faith that brings glory and honor to God.

Romans 4:21-22

²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. ²² And because of Abraham's faith, God counted him as righteous.

- **“Fully convinced”** means without a doubt, this is faith in its strongest form.
 - This is what pleases God the most.
 - This is the motivation behind obedience.
 - **Obedience is the fruit of love** for God the Father.
 - This is why God rewards faithfulness with righteousness.

Romans 4:25

²⁵ He (Jesus) was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

- This is the last verse of chapter 4 and the reason for the word “therefore” in chapter 5:1.

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ summed up in one single sentence. ***²⁵ He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.***

- Meaning:
- **He paid our penalty** for our sins ensuring The Father’s righteousness was intact.
- **He paid our penalty** for our sins to put on public display Gods unbelievable grace, mercy, and love.
- **He was raised to life to show the world that the penalty that was paid**, was accepted by the Father and therefore birth within us our **confident hope** through Jesus Christ.

Let’s look at today’s text Romans 5:1-11

Romans 5:1-11

5 Therefore, (Because of Jesus' sacrifice) since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

- It may surprise you to learn that our biggest problem is not the sin that causes death.
- **Our biggest problem is God the Father.**

Romans 1:18

18 But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness.

- His righteous judgement is (without a doubt) our greatest problem.

Romans 8:7-8

7 For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. 8 That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

- We, before Christ, are **totally depraved**.
 - Meaning we can't possibly see Jesus unless God intervenes on our behalf.
 - This problem was solved by Jesus when He paid the righteous price for our sin **even before we believed or were even born.**

Romans 5:8

8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

- We believe that God's word is true and therefore we rest with confident hope without fear.
 - Meaning, we understand that God's great love for us while we were still sinners, **translates into an even greater love once we become children of God.**

Back to Romans 5:2

² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.

- Most translations say "hope" or "confident hope"
- This is an interesting place to be and live.
- Our faith gives us a **confident hope** in a world that is absolutely unraveling.
- In fact, like Abraham, the more things seem to unravel the **more faith we have in the Word of God.**
 - **Why?**
 - **Because the Bible says that this would happen!**
 - And we absolutely look forward (**in confident hope**) sharing in God's glory in Heaven.
 - Meaning, we can't wait to see all that He has promised both in Heaven and on earth, **but we absolutely believe that we will one day see and understand.**
 - **Meaning**, we can't wait to be completely set free from the power of sin.
 - But until that day let me remind you of two things:
 - We truly live in a very exciting time.

- The darker it gets, the brighter the light of God's glory appears.

Romans 5:3

3 We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

• **WHAT?**

- Do you ever read a sentence or a verse and think, “Who does this?”
 - Who among us celebrates when the doctor calls with the bad news?
 - Who rejoices when our car breaks down and there no money in the savings account for repairs?
 - Who says thank you for the pain of losing someone that you love?
 - *So, I'm thinking the translation could be wrong.*
- Literally in the Greek it is to “**glory**” in times of tribulation.
 - Who does that?
- **I'll tell you who!**
 - Those who have **survived previous trials** and tribulations.
 - Those who **clung to Jesus** when their whole world was collapsing, and their enemies were attacking.
 - Those **who cried out to the Lord** and He guided them through the storm of losing someone that they were absolutely sure they could never live without. **(That's who)**

- These are the people who “**glory**” in the trials and tribulations of life.
 - **They know** this is when God the Father shows Himself strong.

MORE TRUTH:

This is maturity in Christ, and it does not come any other way.

- You will never know the strength of a rope until its strength is put to the test.
- Muscles grow when they are broken down through exercise.
 - They come back bigger and stronger as the body prepares itself for the next time it is put to the test.
 - So, it is with our faith.
 - It grows when the trials and tribulations come.
 - The most helpful insight I can give you in this is that **your pain and suffering has purpose in Christ.**
 - The lost world cannot say that with confidence.
 - How do I know?

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

Before Christ, your pain and suffering was used to **bring you to Christ.**

- Now, your pain and suffering is used to **make you more like Christ**.

Don't waste your pain and suffering:

- Grieve because you need to, but don't stay there.
- Cry out to the Father, **give Him room** to show Himself strong in your pain.
 - If you will, verse three will come alive in your grief.

Romans 5:3

³We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.

Transliteration: hupomoné

Pronunciation: hoo-po-mo-NAY

Phonetic Spelling: (hoop-om-on-ay')

KJV: enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting)

NASB: perseverance, endurance, steadfastness, patient enduring

1. **cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy**

2 Timothy 3:12 “***walk with Christ and you will have suffering***” **Bo Smith translation**

Verse 3 reassures me that Christians will have problems, trials, and tribulations.

- It also reassures me that these trials and tribulations have purpose in that they will make me more like Jesus (which is the goal)

- It reassures me that even when I am doing nothing wrong, difficulty, pain, and suffering will come.
- It reassures me that these painful trials will be used by The Father to prepare me for future difficulties and ministries that will bring Him much glory which will lead to the lost desiring the peace that I have during those difficulties.
- It also reassures me that it's okay to say that it hurts, but in spite of the pain my faith in Jesus will grow, in fact because of the pain my faith will grow.

- **“Church Hurt”**

Romans 5:4

4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Do you remember Lazarus story in John 11?

- Here is a guy who was a close friend of Jesus, and he dies.
- Four days after Lazarus' death Jesus shows up to comfort Lazarus' sisters.
 - But Jesus had come for more than comfort, He had come to give them **confident hope**.
 - Now, Mary believed in the Word of God and that one day her brother would be brought back to life, ***but Jesus had something else in mind.***
 - He, filled with emotion moves to the cemetery to where His friend is buried and gives the order to remove the stone that blocks his tomb.
 - John 11:39 (Mary's reply) “But Lord he stinketh”

- He commands Lazarus to come out and he does.

Now I say all of that to say this:

- Lazarus had to go through the process of dying.
- Mary and Martha had to go through the process of watching their brother die.
- They were not rejoicing when they went through that process because their faith had not endured through such a difficult thing.
- Their hearts did rejoice when Lazarus walked out of that tomb.

Now, ponder this:

- What was it like for Lazarus the next time that he died?
 - Do you think for one second that there was fear?
 - No!!!!!!
 - He longed to die again for he knew what waited on him.

Now, we don't know if Lazarus preceded his sisters in death but let's pretend, he did.

- Do you think they felt the same way at his second death as the first?
 - No, they knew the truth.
 - He had told them about paradise.
 - He told them had they had nothing to fear
 - How he could wait to share his faith
 - How he couldn't wait to go and be with His Lord forever.

This is how you rejoice in trials and tribulation.

- **You remember how** The Father held you during those difficult days.
- **You remember how** those difficult days brought you to that glorious moment where God revealed Himself strong.
- **You remember that** He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you.
- **You remember that** He is the one who controls the trial, the tribulation, and the suffering.
 - **You remember that** He does call His own to suffer at times for His glory and our maturation.
 - **You remember that** your hope is in Him and He will not disappoint.

Romans 5:5

5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.

- ***Do you know why people commit suicide?***
 - They lose hope.
 - They fail to remember all the things that God has promised.
 - They get caught up in ***the here and now*** as if that is all that there is, **but the child of God remembers.**
 - **They fail to remember that this momentary affliction will absolutely not compare with what God has prepared for us.**

Okay Pastor, that's us but what about my friend my family member that doesn't know Him.

- What about the helpless?

I have great news for you!!!!

Romans 5:6

6When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

- God is in the business of rescuing the helpless.
- This why the gospel is so important.
- It must be spoken and lived out.
- Christians should be the most hopeful, most optimistic people on the planet because we know that this is not it!
- Look, the reason we as human beings lose hope is we look at ourselves and think, "I was made for more for I am not happy with anything that this life gives me."
 - It's why we are not satisfied with anything because nothing satisfies completely, until....
 - Until we see Jesus for who He really is, our Lord, our Savior, and our King.
 - In Him we find hope, satisfaction, purpose, and life abundantly.
 - In short, we find **something** worth dying for
 - **Someone** worth living for!!!!

Romans 5:6-8

⁶When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

⁷Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners.**

- I get frustrated with ministries that paint God the Father as the angry God.
- They speak of Him as the Old Testament God who brings fire from the sky to punish the wicked.
- The Old Testament God who required the blood of animals by the thousands to atone for man's sin.
 - But Pastor isn't that the truth?
 - ***Yes, but it is not the whole story!***

Do we paint Cancer Doctors as butchers for cutting out cancer in its victims?

- No, we honor them for their efforts.
- Nor do we criticize them when they love us enough to tell us to stop smoking and drinking before it kills us.
- **God is our great physician.**
 - The Old Testament is Him at work cutting out the cancer that wrecks the lives of His children.
 - Sin is the global epidemic that is killing us all!
 - There is a cure, but this cure comes at a great cost to the Father.

For years you have heard me say: “I am willing to die for you as a fireman, but I am not willing to do is sacrifice my son for you.”

- No fireman would be willing to do that for anyone.
- Few men are willing to die for someone they do not know.
 - No man is willing to sacrifice their child for one of their enemies.
 - Yet, this is exactly what the Father has done for us.

It was His love, His command, Jesus’ faithfulness, and our sin that put His son on that cross.

- He loved us long before we ever loved Him.
- This is why I love the Lord’s prayer found in John 17.
 - **It is there that** we hear the love that drove Jesus to the obedience of His death on the cross.
 - **It is there that** we hear His prayer that we could one day love the Father as much as He loves the Father.
 - **It is there that** we hear of the Fathers great love for His son and all the children that He will give to His son through the greatest act of obedience (love) ever known to man.

So, you see.

- The Father is love
- Just like the Son is love
- Just like the Holy Spirit is love.

Romans 5:9

⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation.

- So, you see the wrath of God is no longer upon those in Christ.

Romans 8:1-2

¹ So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

- We now have the **confident hope** in Jesus Christ because of what He has done for us.
- We have **confident hope** because of God's grace, mercy, and love for us.
- We have **confident hope** because He has given us the gift of faith which changes everything.

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ For since our **friendship** with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

- In the Greek it says "since we have been reconciled with God"
 - **Friendship** is an interpretation not a translation, but it does convey a new relationship with God.
 - However, I am not sure that I agree with the translation.
 - Let's look at verse 11 and I'll explain.

Romans 5:11

¹¹So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

- Isaiah 41 and James 2 both remind us that God called Abraham “friend” because of his faith and obedience.
- I hesitate because of my belief that we have made God the Father or even Jesus into something that They are not.
 - I don’t care for terms like:
 - The big man upstairs
 - Jesus is my homie
 - JC is my homie

Can I remind you that when the Apostle John saw Jesus in all of His glory in Revelation 1 he fell before Him as though he was dead.

- When Isaiah came into the presence of the throne of God the Father he immediately cried out for mercy for he knew that he was a man of unclean lips.
 - One of the greatest Old Testament prophets suddenly became very aware of his sinful mouth.
 - What would it be like for us if we came into the presence of God the Father?
 - Meaning there is extreme reverence for the King.
 - ***So, it must be with us!***

So, I close with this thought from Jonathan Edwards:

It comes from Jonathan Edwards in 1731, when he was 28:

“The redeemed have all their objective good in God.

God himself is the great good which they are brought to the possession and enjoyment of redemption.

He is the highest good, and the sum of all that good which Christ purchased.

God is the inheritance of the saints; he is the portion of their souls.

God is their wealth and treasure, their food, their life, their dwelling place, their ornament and diadem, and their everlasting honor and glory.

They have none in heaven but God; he is the great good which the redeemed are received to at death, and which they are to rise to at the end of the world.

The Lord God, he is the light of the heavenly Jerusalem; and is the ‘river of the water of life’ that runs, and the tree of life that grows, ‘in the midst of the paradise of God.’

The glorious excellencies and beauty of God will be what will forever entertain the minds of the saints, and the love of God will be their everlasting feast.

The redeemed will indeed enjoy other things;

they will enjoy the angels and will enjoy one another:

but that which they shall enjoy in the angels,

or each other,

or in anything else whatsoever,

that will yield them delight and happiness,

will be what will be seen of God in them.”