

No Longer Enemies

Romans 5:5-11... and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶ 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.

❖ Review

- Verses 5-8
- Outline:
 - 1) We Rejoice
 - 2) The Wrath of God is Real
 - 3) Saved by Blood
 - 4) Enemies Reconciled
 - 5) We Rejoice
 - 6) God has Done This Work

❖ Intro

- **The Only Way to Understand these verses...**
 - Is if we understand our dreadful state before Almighty God
 - The reason I say this is because...
 - Verse 11 says... we also rejoice in God
 - And we rejoice in God because we have received **reconciliation** through Jesus Christ...

❖ 1) We Rejoice

- **As you can see... Our proper response is to be one of rejoicing...**
 - What does it mean to rejoice...?
 - Well... I think this particular word carries with it an idea of bragging... or boasting
 - **Illustration:**
 - ◆ When a sports team wins a championship... its fans brag and boast...
 - ◆ They hit the roads honking horns and shouting...
 - ◆ My team won... we won... we are the best...
 - ◆ They even have parades to celebrate the championship...
 - ◆ And they go on and on about how they overcame adversity to triumph...
 - **Or maybe when a young man meets a beautiful young lady...**
 - ◆ And he asks her to marry him... and he is so excited about her
 - ◆ And he loves to brag on her and say... hey... that is my wife over there...
 - ◆ Yeah... you see her... the pretty one... that one is mine
 - **Maybe you have nationalistic pride...**
 - ◆ You are proud of your nation or its military powers
 - ◆ I think this is kind of who the Philistines felt when they had 9 foot Goliath on their side
 - ◆ This huge giant was ready to take on anyone...
 - ◆ And he came out bragging about it every day... and the Philistine's army would rejoice...

- ◆ Israel sat in silence... and in fear until david came a long...
- ◆ And david went out by the power of God Almighty and he slayed that giant
- ◆ Then Israel rejoiced...
- ◆ It was something tangible and seen and they wrote songs about David and praised him
- ◆ And they praised God...

▪ **Here in these verses... Paul is giving us an amazing truth to consider...**

- He is telling us what God has accomplished in us...
- and He says... therefore... we Rejoice... we brag... we boast
 - ◆ In what ways are you that excited about what God has done in you and for you?

❖ **2) The Wrath of God is Real**

➤ **Now... Before you can get to the rejoicing part...**

- You need to see that God's wrath is real...
- Notice in verse 9: **much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**

➤ **God's Wrath is Real...**

- The word wrath means the outpouring of God's anger in punishment...
- **This world would have you to believe God is not like this...**
 - That God is understanding and easy going and He does not care what you do
 - As long as you mean well, or as long as you aren't the most terrible person...
 - But in reality, this is not true...
- **If You believe God is a God of wrath you are crazy...**
 - This is where we are today... if you say God will judge sin you are nuts
 - Or worse... you are a hater...
 - You are some religious zealot that does not live in reality...
- **There are supposed preachers of the Word of God who sugar coat and water down God**
 - Almost like he is a medicine that is too hard to take... so let's add some sugar
 - Or he is a drink that is too strong, so lets add a little water...
 - The masses can not handle how strong this God is... let's make Him more palatable...
 - Easier to handle...
- **But hear me People... God will not be handled... He will be who He is...**
 - And He is not only a God of love... but He is also a God of wrath and indignation
 - If you read the Bible and trust it instead of picking and choosing... you will see this truth
- **If you want to rejoice... you must understand God's Wrath...**
 - If you want to know the depths and heights and widths and lengths of God's love
 - Then you must understand His wrath against sin

➤ **God's Wrath has been Demonstrated in History:**

▪ **People have Experienced the Wrath of God throughout History...**

- Some we know for sure because the Bible tells us... others you can look at and assume...
- **1) The People before the flood:**
 - ◆ **Genesis 6:11-13** ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³ And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.
 - God's wrath was against man and their sin...
- **2) The people of Sodom and Gomorah**

- ◆ Genesis 18:20-21 ²⁰ Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me.
 - There are many that speculate about the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah... We only know what the scriptures give us...
 - At the least there was rampant sexual immorality there
 - When God sent his angels to the city, the men of the city wanted to sin with them
 - Abraham’s nephew, Lot, lived there...
 - And God in His mercy on Lot led him out of the city before He destroyed it
- ◆ Genesis 19:23-25 ²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.
 - God’s wrath came upon their sinful behavior
- **3) How about the people of the land of canaan**
 - ◆ These are the people that lived in the land of Israel before Israel became a nation
 - ◆ Canaanites’ sinfulness was exhibited in rampant idolatry, incest, adultery, child sacrifice, homosexuality, and bestiality,
 - ◆ God sent the nation of Israel in, in part to bring His judgment upon their sin...
 - ◆ God does not allow nations to continue in rampant sin
 - without eventually bringing them down...
 - but He is patient as well... and he gave them time... finally he judged them
 - Deuteronomy 9:1-5 Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a consuming fire is the Lord your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you. So you shall drive them out and make them perish quickly, as the Lord has promised you. ⁴ “Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, ‘It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land,’ whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you. ⁵ Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you,
- **4) How about the People of Israel... who God used to bring judgment...**
 - ◆ **Well... they sinned mightily in God’s eyes as well... And they were punished...**
 - The Israelites worshiped the Canaanites’ gods and “did evil” (Judg. 10:6; 1 Kings 14:22; 2 Kings 17:10).
 - They had “male shrine prostitutes” (1 Kings 14:22),
 - committed acts of “lewdness,” adultery, and incest (Jer. 5:7; 29:23; Hos. 4:13–14; Ezek. 22:10–11; Amos 2:7),
 - and even Solomon set up an altar to Molech (1 Kings 11:5, 7–8).
 - But instead of repenting when things went badly, they concluded that their misfortune was because they stopped burning incense to “the Queen of Heaven,” Inanna/Ishtar (Jer. 44:18).
 - So the Lord said that Israel became “like Sodom to me” (Jer. 23:14).
 - ◆ **Although prophets warned the northern kingdom of impending doom,**
 - they didn’t repent, and in 722 BC the king of Assyria killed or deported most of them,
 - and filled the land with conquered peoples from other nations.
 - ◆ **Similarly, the southern tribes were deported**
 - when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem beginning in 586 BC.

- before he destroyed Jerusalem He told Jeremiah that if He could find even one righteous person He would spare the entire city (Jer. 5:1).
 - ◆ So many examples of individual kings and queens that were punished by God for their sin
- **5) Nebuchadnezzar and His Grandson...**
 - ◆ So what about this king of Babylon... well... He did not acknowledge God's hand in his nation
 - ◆ He assumed he was the nation builder...
 - ◆ So God took away his understanding and he became like an animal...
 - ◆ It was actually an act of mercy on Nebuchadnezzar...
 - ◆ Nebuchadnezzar's grandson on the other hand was destroyed for his sin and the kingdom taken...
- **6) King Herod in Acts...**
 - ◆ Acts 12:21-23 ²¹ On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" ²³ Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.
- **7) How About in the Church?**
 - ◆ Ananias and Saphira
 - Acts 5:3-6 ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶ The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.
- **Denial or Acceptance?**
 - You know... the so called smart people of this earth can deny this... they can say...
 - ◆ This is the course of things... this is all coincidence
 - ◆ God is not judging and bringing His wrath...
 - Very few people see that behind the scenes, God is indeed at work...
- **God's Wrath is Real...**
 - Deny this to your own peril:
 - ◆ "But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed" Romans 2:5
- **God's Wrath Makes Sense:**
 - J.I. Packer said "God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil"
 - ◆ God's wrath is the right response to sin
 - ◆ In the very same way that a Father would be filled with rage
 - When someone takes his daughter and causes harm to her...
 - He should and would be outraged...
 - ◆ God's wrath is a natural response to sin...
- **God's Wrath Will Come**
 - "The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies." (Nahum 1:2)
- **There is a coming Day of Wrath**
 - Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the

rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

- ◆ God’s wrath will be fully felt on this day...
- ◆ As of now... the Scriptures teach that His wrath is being revealed from heaven...
- ◆ We have seen examples from the scriptures...
- ◆ But on that day.... It will be felt in a terrible way...

▪ **God’s Wrath is Eternal**

- Revelation 14:11 ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”

▪ **God’s Wrath has been upon every living soul because of their sin...**

- So, this fits you and me doesn’t it...?
- Paul makes this clear when he says of people that are not right with God...
- That they were once “children of wrath”

▪ **But... God’s wrath is Revocable... (What do I mean by this?)**

- Man does not have to face the wrath of God... It can be removed from man because...
- **God’s Love is Real...**
 - ◆ The depth of the consequences of our sins...
 - ◆ Makes the depths of God’s love astounding

▪ **God’s Love is Astounding**

- So.... Here this takes us to our text...

❖ **3) Saved by Blood**

- 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 Blood of Jesus Christ Makes Justification possible**

- Justification is that legal declaration by God that we are right with Him
- There is no offense on our account
- The blood is the currency for our ransom...

➤ **Remember... God’s wrath was upon sinful mankind...**

- It was being stored up... God has not yet poured it out
- Some have felt it during their lives, others at their death...
- But God’s wrath was being held back by God’s patience...

▪ **Yet: There it was and is for unrepentant man...**

- Jesus said: John 3:36 **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

➤ **Therefore... if you have been justified by the blood of Jesus...**

- You will certainly be saved from the wrath of God...
- “Much more shall we be saved”

➤ **Paul is trying to assure his audience that God will indeed deliver on His promises**

- If Jesus paid for our sins by His blood... you can rest assured, you will be saved
- From the wrath of God
- There remains no more fear... Only peace

❖ **4) Enemies Reconciled**

- 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.

➤ **We were enemies with God...**

- Do you see what this means? It does not just mean that we were against God
- And that God had no issue or problem with us.
- There was enmity both ways...
- We were mutual enemies...
 - If this is not so, then why does the text say we needed the death of the Son
 - For Reconciliation...
 - Most people just see God as this only loving kind Divine Being that doesn't get angry
 - But Reconciliation tells a different story

➤ **Reconciliation**

- Means: to be restored to a friendly relationship with someone after a wrong
 - So... You do something wrong against a friend, or your spouse
 - And there is Anger and Hurt on their part for what you did to them...
 - And they are not happy that you wronged them
 - In fact... they are angry over what you have done...
 - ◆ But, then you go and apologize and do whatever it takes to right the wrong...
 - ◆ And the relationship is restored...
 - ◆ This is reconciliation...

➤ **Our Reconciliation:**

- We were enemies to God and He was angry toward us over our wrongs toward Him
- Remember: All sin is toward God... don't think it just affects you or others on this earth
- Any sin is a breaking of divine law and therefore a wrong done against God
- Our Reconciliation:
 - Was out of our hands
 - We had no way to go to God and make it right...
 - So God sought out reconciliation on our behalf... He made the steps to right our wrongs

➤ **While We were enemies we were reconciled...**

- How: By the death of His Son
- God stepped in and made things right by offering His Son on our behalf...
- And the sacrifice of His Son... Reconciles us with God...

➤ **Much More:**

- **much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**
- **Paul wants to make sure His Audience really understands to the extent God is for them...**
 - He is building up his argument... He has already said it once...
 - He says it again...
- **If God loved you while you were His enemy... If He sent His son to die when you were against Him**
 - How much more can you be sure He will save you in the future sense...
- **There is More...**
 - I think Paul is making an argument to let us know how much God is for us now
 - And.... how much He is for us in the future...
 - ◆ **Hebrews 7:25 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.**
- **If while you were an enemy of God He did these things....**
 - How much do you think God is for you from this point on?
 - God is for you... God is here to help you in your weaknesses
 - He is here to guide you and direct you
 - You are not His enemy anymore... You are His friend... You are right with Him
 - **IF INDEED YOU HAVE REPENTED AND BELIEVED!**

▪ **Remember... God is doing something with you...!**

- Colossians 1:21-23 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, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven

➤ **If God is for you who can be against you?**

- I think it is clear that not even the powers of satan and hell stand a chance against the redeemed
 - Romans 8:31-39 ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, *"For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."* ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- So... quit fooling around with your sins and fears...
- Trust in the Lord... Give your self wholly to Him...

❖ **5) We Rejoice**

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

➤ **Finally... we end where we began...**

- We rejoice... We brag... We boast over what God has done in us...
 - We have received reconciliation with God...
 - Therefore we rejoice...
 - And Finally...

❖ **6) God has Done This Work**

➤ **Notice the passive verbs:**

- Have been justified, shall we be saved, were reconciled, we are reconciled, shall we be saved, received reconciliation

➤ **God has done this work in you... remember to rejoice... remember to trust in Him...**

- Do not grieve the Spirit at work in you
- Do not quench the Spirit at work in you
- Give your will toward God

❖ **Invitation**