

More, Much More

Romans 5:8-11

Romans 1:16-17, ESV—For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith”

There are **three aspects of salvation, past, present and future**, and Paul alludes to all three of them in these verses

What?

Christ’s death reconciles hostiles

Saved from enmity with God—

First of all, see the preposterous thing God has done

Vss. 8-9a—the preposterous part is indicated by the clause, “**while we were still sinners**”

“Sinners”—we were **helpless to please God**, and in fact **uncaring about pleasing or worshipping Him** (vs. 6)

We were **enemies of God** (vs. 10)

Romans 1:18, ESV—...by their unrighteousness [they] suppress the truth

Romans 1:28, ESV—...they did not see fit to acknowledge God

Romans 1:29, ESV—They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, ...haters of God...

To be an enemy of God means to be in the opposite camp, facing God in war, **having Him come against you with wrath**

For God to love people like this, send His Son to die to make peace is **outrageous, unbelievable, preposterous**

But God also **pronounces His enemies “not guilty”**

This deals with the past—our past sins are wiped out, forgiven, remembered no longer

From this truth, Paul reasons from the greater to the lesser

Because God has done such an unbelievable thing, **it is easy for Him to do much more**

Vss. 9b-10—it’s easy for Him to **save us from His wrath, since we have been acquitted**

It’s easy for Him to **save them to a life in eternity with Him**

Paul is referring to the future aspect of salvation, what we will be saved from and what we will be saved to

Jesus’ resurrection and life are the guarantee of our future resurrection and eternal life with God

Vs. 11—we have received the reconciliation now

It’s easy for Him to **grant us the blessing of fellowship with Himself now in the present**

So here we see the present aspect of salvation

So What?

As a believer, **you can face suffering or death or whatever the future may bring** with confidence

We also **rejoice in God—celebrating by giving glory to God**

It means complimenting God by giving testimony

This is a practical way of no longer “falling short of the glory of God”

The final say—Paul

II Corinthians 5:19, ESV—...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them

Now What?

Ask yourself, what are the hindrances stopping you from maintaining an attitude of rejoicing because of your salvation

Take steps to remove these hindrances, so that your life gives glory to God