



**“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).**

## **Salvation Extended**

**Central Truth:** Eternal salvation is freely offered to all.

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Here is bad news and good news.

The bad news is that each of us has sinned and is hopelessly condemned to eternal sufferings in hell.

The good news is that God has come in Jesus Christ to provide eternal salvation to each one who trusts Jesus.

With those two truths we have summarized the Christian gospel. Therein is the need of man and the mercy of God. After giving considerable space to proving that Gentiles are sinners (Romans 1:18-32), that Jews are sinners (Romans 2:1-3:8), and that all are sinners (Romans 3:9-20), Paul turns now to offer salvation.

Romans 3:21-5:21 discusses the doctrine of justification. From condemnation in sin to deliverance from sin the emphasis of the epistle moves us from darkness to light. Here is one of the most beautiful and systematic statements of the doctrine of justification by faith to be found anywhere in Holy Scripture. We will examine the description of salvation in Romans 3:21-26 and then the benefits of salvation in Romans 5:1-8. Let your heart rejoice in the Lord as you pursue this study.

### **I. A DESCRIPTION OF SALVATION (Romans 3:21-26)**

**A. Salvation is apart from the law** (verse 21). It was natural that the Jews looked upon obedience to the law of God as the way to be saved. Yet God never gave the law as a way to receive salvation, but as a standard to point out the need of salvation. Jew and Gentile are both saved by faith;

neither is saved by keeping the law. *"It is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith"* (Romans 3:30). *"A man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, . . . for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified"* (Galatians 2:16). Justification comes by what God has done for us, not by what we are able to do for God. Settle that issue forever in your mind. No one ever has or ever will be saved by keeping God's law.

**B. Salvation is witnessed by the prophets** (verse 21). Salvation by faith is no new and different plan of God. It is the one way of salvation that He has always provided. Abraham *"believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness"* (Genesis 15:6) in exactly the same way that He counts us righteous upon our faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:6-9; Romans 4:1-25). Jesus is the one of whom *"Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write"* (John 1:45). God has always had only one way to be saved. He revealed it through His prophets and His only begotten Son.

**C. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ** (Romans 3:22, 23). The blessing offered is *"the righteousness of God."* The way to receive it is *"by faith of Jesus Christ"*. The offer is *"unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference."* Read John 3:14-18 and notice Jesus' emphasis on the place of faith in salvation. It is by believing on Him that we have eternal life (John 5:24; 20:31).

It matters not that *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (verse 23). God's salvation includes all sinners who turn from their sin and trust Jesus.

Pause in your reading here, turn in your Bible to Romans 4, and read the experience of Abraham. He believed God, and his faith was counted to him for righteousness. *"Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead"* (Romans 4:23, 24).

**D. Salvation is by grace** (Romans 3:24). That means that we are not saved because we deserve it or work to earn it. Salvation is God's free gift provided to us just because He loves us. Salvation is by grace alone. *"If by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work"* (Romans 11:6). What a privilege it is to be justified by His grace (Titus 3:4-7)!

**E. Salvation is by the death of Jesus** (Romans 3:24-26). Notice the key concepts of the passage: *"justified freely," "redemption that is in Christ Jesus," "propitiation through faith in his blood," "remission of sins that*

*are past* “ One could stop and shout at that point! What a wonderful picture of the grace God manifested in Jesus Christ! Three truths stand out in those statements.

(1) Redemption is in Jesus (verse 24). He has bought us out from the curse and condemnation of sin (Galatians 3:13) by shedding His blood as He bore our guilt on the cross (Ephesians 1:7). Only Jesus can redeem sinners and set them free.

(2) Propitiation is in Jesus (verse 25). God removed the barrier which separated man from Him by what Jesus did (1 John 2:2; 4: 10). He receives sinners in grace and cleanses them from their sin. So God and man fellowship with one another in Jesus Christ.

(3) Vindication is in Jesus (verses 25, 26). How could God be just when He seems to have bypassed sin in generations past? The sacrifice of Jesus atoned for all sin whether past, present, or future. God could deal in grace with sinners in the ancient times because of what He knew He would do in Jesus when the time was right. Vindication means that God is just in His method of atonement for sinners (Hebrews 9:22), and God is just in forgiving guilty sinners (Romans 5:9; I Peter 1:18, 19).

## **II. THE BENEFITS OF SALVATION (Romans 5:1-8)**

Do not think of salvation solely in terms of God removing a guilty conscience now and taking us to heaven when we die. There is much more to be enjoyed now. Read Romans 5:1-8 and make a list of the present benefits of salvation.

**A. Salvation brings peace with God** (verses 1, 2). The Bible speaks of peace with God (which means the removal of hostility and the presence of calm) and the peace of God (which means the tranquility which God himself enjoys governing our hearts and minds). That is a present blessing of salvation. Peace with God is present; *“we have peace with God.”*

Peace with God is personal; *“we have peace with God.”* Peace with God is provided; it comes *“through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Peace with God is profitable; *“we have access,” “we stand, and rejoice,”* and *“we glory.”* Salvation is much more than, “pie in the sky by and by when you die.” What a privilege it is to be saved!

**B. Salvation brings the joy of hope** (verse 2). There is more to the Christian's expectation than wishful thinking or deep desire. There is such an assurance of what will be that he can *“rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”* Promises in the Holy Bible become *“the joy and rejoicing of (his) heart”* when one is called by the name of God (Jeremiah 15:16). It begins

with a great joy (Acts 8:8) which continues growing (II Peter 1:8).

**C. Salvation gives victory in times of trials** (verses 3-5). Troubles come to Christians as well as to non-Christians. The difference is in their resources in times of trouble. Christians “*glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed*” (verses 3-5). In all of his troubles the Christian knows that God is with him and is working his good from the problems of the moment. In it all, he says, “*I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength*” (Habakkuk 3:18, 19). There is a note of victory in trials because “*inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; . . . when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy*” (I Peter 4:13).

**D. Salvation gives assurance of God's help** (verses 6-8). God came to our rescue when we were weak (“without strength”) and wrong (“yet sinners”) and wicked (“enemies”). “*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*” (Romans 8:32). Jesus came to save sinners (I Timothy 1:15), goes to share personal fellowship with them (Luke 19:7), and gives them peace through cleansing from sin (Matthew 11:29). God is for us, on our side, and taking our place. Hallelujah!

Please do not think of this as theory; it is fact. It is a present reality to one who is trusting Jesus. To be saved means to be made safe. God gives eternal safety to each one who trusts Him. Even one who does not deserve God's help, one who is in rebellion against God is made safe upon repentance and faith. Trust Jesus and find out for yourself!

## Questions

1. Why is salvation needed by every person?
2. What do we mean when we say that salvation is by grace?
3. How is faith related to being saved?
4. Why must there be faith in Jesus Christ personally?
5. What is meant by saying that Jesus has redeemed us?
6. What is peace with God? the peace of God?
7. Why does joy accompany salvation?
8. How can Jesus' death atone for sins past, present, and future?
9. How can one be sure that he is truly saved?
10. With whom can you share the way of salvation this week?