



“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,” Romans 5:8.

Purchased Salvation

Lesson Aim: The study of Articles 10, 11.

10. Justification before God by faith without any admixture of works.

11. Separation of God's children from the world.

L500. Date: January 1960. **Text:** Romans 5:1-11; 6:11-13.

Topic: Salvation; Sanctification.

INTRODUCTION—One of the most meaningful words in our language is “Saved!” It quickens a note of gladness in our hearts and grants hope where despair reigned. If a child is lost from home many people will come to the aid of the distressed parents. Hours are spent in anxious search until the word is passed, “The child is found. He is safe.” All who have joined the search rejoice with the happy parents. However, there is a salvation more wonderful than that. It is the salvation of the soul! Soul salvation is possible only because of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at the picture accompanying this lesson in your quarterly. Each man and woman has to choose his own destiny. Any choice based upon human reasoning of self-attainments leads to confusion and condemnation. Only by faith in Jesus Christ can one miss the “blind alleys” and “dead ends” of life. Through Him comes eternal redemption. He is the sole—yet sufficient—way to God. As our lesson topic suggests, soul salvation is a purchased salvation. It has been bought at the cost of the life of the sinless Son of God, Ephesians 1:7. To be “saved” is to be “safe” and we are safe because Jesus has given Himself for us. Our redemption lies only in that sacrifice, I Peter 1:18-19; Acts 4:12. Every person has sinned and needs to be saved. The invitation of God is extended to all to accept the salvation provided by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Let each reader of this lesson remind himself, “It

was for me that Jesus died. He made the atonement for my sin upon the cross.” Such a thought should drive us to our knees before Him in sincere confession of sin and full dedication of life to Him. Read carefully the “Aim” of our lesson (just under the title) and then study the exposition.

EXPOSITION

1. The Meaning of Salvation, “justified,” 5:1.

To be saved is to be justified. The Greek word translated “justified” has two meanings: (1) It means to make righteous; (2) it means to declare righteous—as the pronouncement of a judge. Perhaps both ideas are reflected in the New Testament use of this word. The sinner penitently approaches God through the Lord Jesus Christ. He confesses sin and seeks forgiveness, confidently believing that forgiveness can be obtained because of the sacrifice of Jesus. God looks upon him and counts his faith for righteousness, declaring him to be no longer under the guilt and condemnation of sin. Thus one is saved. However, that is only one side of the miracle of salvation. The act of declaring one righteous and no longer responsible for the guilt of former sins is accompanied by (and is simultaneous with) the new birth. The person who is thus “regenerated” (born again) becomes “*a new creature: old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new,*” II Corinthians 5:17. This new person (called “a new creature,” or “a new creation”) is actually made righteous.

The righteousness which the believer has is not his own, but the imputed righteousness of God, Romans 4:3. It is not “*mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith,*” Philippians 3:9. God confers His own righteousness upon the believer. Thus one becomes “*partaker of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust,*” II Peter 1:4. The believer is righteous, not because he suddenly can do righteous things, but because God makes him so. Just as the prodigal son received a new robe from his father, Luke 15:22, so our Heavenly Father clothes the believer in divine righteousness. This, and even more, is involved, in “justification.” Thus the deliverance is such that to be “justified” is to be made “just-as-if-I-had-not-sinned.” Praise God for saving grace!

II. The Method of Salvation, “faith,” 5:1.

1. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ. The reader would do well to pause here and read John 3:14-18. Jesus explains to Nicodemus what it means to be “born again.” He points to the wilderness experience when the people were dying of the bite of the fiery serpents and Moses made the serpent of brass. It was put on a pole outside the camp and everyone who looked up to it was healed. He shows that just so must the Son of Man be crucified that all who look to Him in faith will be healed of the result of sin. These verses bear witness that it is unbelief which condemns the soul. Verse 18 says whosoever believes in Jesus is not condemned, while he who believes not is already condemned. (He does not have to wait until eternal judgment to be condemned.) Why is the unbeliever condemned? Just because he has not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:36 witnesses that it is faith in the Son that brings everlasting life, while unbelief will eternally exclude one from life and lay him open to the exhibition of the wrath of God. John 5:24 points out that hearing the word and believing is sufficient to take one from the dominion of spiritual death and translate him into the life in Jesus Christ. Moreover, one who is so saved by faith has no fear of coming into a judgment which condemns, because he is already transferred from death unto life. See the place of faith in Ephesians 2:8-9 and related passages.

2. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ as a personal Savior. It is not just faith that Jesus died and that He can save which redeems the soul. It is a faith that “Jesus died for me. He calls me to forgiveness through the Holy Spirit. He is willing and able to save me. Now that I confess my sins, turn from them, and submit to Him, He does now save me.” The faith must be more than that Jesus has saved or that He can save; it must be a faith that Jesus now saves me. He is not just a Saviour; He now becomes my Saviour. This personal element is essential to true religion and no person is saved without a personal experience of committal to Him.

III. The Results of Salvation, 5:1-5.

1. We have peace with God, verse 1. Before being saved, we were ungodly, sinners, and even “enemies” of God. Living in carnality we were at enmity with God and not subject to His law, Romans 8: 7. In Christ Jesus the enmity is overcome and we who were afar off are brought near to God,

Ephesians 2:12-18. Thus peace is the result. It is a peace which surpasses the “good-times” of the world and keeps the heart content. It is a peace which is enjoyed by Jesus and is His special gift to His own, John 14:27.

2. We have access to God, verse 2a. To have “access” means we can come into God's presence. No priest or minister need go for us. Jesus Christ represents us there and that is enough, I Timothy 2:5. This opportunity to approach God for ourself comes to us through the blood of Jesus and gives us a full assurance, Hebrews 10:19-22. Jesus is now in the presence of God. Through Him we can come into that presence also. Therefore we come confidently to the throne of grace, obtaining mercy and finding help in every occasion of need, Hebrews 4:14-16.

3. We rejoice in hope, verse 2b. Instead of being “without God, and having no hope in the world,” the believer can rejoice in his definite hope. Even though we do not now see our Lord, we, know He is real, and through faith we have a joy which is beyond description, being full of glory, I Peter 1:8. Jesus says having one's name written in heaven (that is, being redeemed) is a greater occasion for joy than being able to perform miracles, Luke 10:20. The believer can heed the admonition, “*Rejoice in the Lord,*” Philippians 3:1.

4. We grow in spirit through all circumstances, verses 3-4. How wonderful to know that in truth, “*all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,*” Romans 8:23. Even tribulation is profitable as it produces patience, experience, hope, and unashamed confidence. The Lord never deserts the believer. He is always near and ready to cause circumstances to work His purpose. See II Chronicles 16:9. Every circumstance is an occasion for spiritual growth.

5. We are unashamed, verse 5a. The reality of the Christian's hope delivers him from shame. He who has experienced the power of God through the Gospel message need have no hesitancy in boldly proclaiming that it is able to save. To know the Gospel as the power of God unto salvation is reason enough to deliver us from shame in its proclamation, Romans 1:16. Isn't the cause of our shame in Christian service the fact that we live such spiritually starved lives that God is not actually real?

6. We are increasingly aware of God's love, verse 5b. He who lives in communion with God grows more and more amazed at the depth of the love of God for men. To know God is to experience His love and the more one knows of Him the more love controls and influences his life. The Holy Spirit broadcasts the love of God in our heart and the result is that we love our brethren more and more, I John 4:7-12.

7. We receive the Holy Spirit, verse 5c. The Holy Spirit is “given” to us (not deserved by works) upon our conversion. All who come to Jesus to drink of the water of life have the Holy Spirit abiding in them from that time onward, John 7:37-39. Thus the physical body of the believer is “the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God,” I Corinthians 6:19. Every believer has the Holy Spirit abiding within him unto eternity.

IV. The Basis of Salvation, 5:6-11.

1. Salvation is based in the sacrifice of Jesus, verses 6, 8, 10. Observe the recurring expression “Christ died” in the verses listed. This is the hope of the sinner. Hebrews 9:22 says blood must be shed in order for the redemption to be obtained. II Corinthians 5:21 informs us that Christ, who knew no sin, has died for sinners that they might be saved. I Peter 2:24 tells how Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the cross and that by these stripes we are healed. Finally, I Peter 1:18-20 witnesses that through this shed blood of Jesus Christ we are redeemed. This is the united testimony of the Bible. Salvation is through the sacrifice of Jesus. Without Him forgiveness is impossible. Is your hope in Him?

2. Salvation is never obtained by human merit. Paul says we were “sinners, ungodly, enemies” when we were without Christ. How could such a one work so as to deserve salvation? Jesus did not come to save those already righteous (not even those content in self-righteousness and unwilling to repent), but to save those who recognized they were sinners, Luke 19:10. Thus salvation is “*not by works of righteousness which we have done,*” Titus 3:5, because “*we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we do all fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away,*” Isaiah 64:6. Salvation, as election, is either entirely by grace without works, or entirely by works without grace, Romans 11:6. Salvation is by grace, through faith, and is completely independent of works which we can perform, Ephesians 2:8-9.

3. Salvation cannot be deserved by performance of sacraments. A “sacrament” is a deed of righteousness which confers saving grace upon the person who performs it. Roman Catholics recognize seven such sacraments. Many Protestant groups recognize two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are not sacraments, however, for one cannot be saved by performing them. Titus 3:5 witnesses salvation is “not by works of righteousness which we have done.” No man is saved because of any work or rite of the flesh. As the old hymn says, “Nothing in my hands I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.” What could a man do that would avail to the forgiveness of sins and

the redemption of the soul? This is the work of God's grace and the Bible-believing Christian will be content to leave it there. We do not depend upon anything we can do, but simply upon what Christ has done for us. Those who have trusted have found that this is enough.

V. The Demands of Salvation, 6:11-13.

1. It demands death to the old life of sin, verse 11a. The believer is no more to live in the old life of sinful pursuits than a dead man could live in his old environment in the world. Christian life and sin are diametrically opposed to one another. The Christian cannot live on in sin. Such a thing is unknown, Romans 6:1-6. In fact, the one who continually practices sin after confession of faith is manifesting that he does not really know the Lord Jesus as Saviour, I John 3:7-9. While occasional slips may come, the true believer lives a new life in Christ. There will be a battle between the old life and the new, but he does not have to submit to temptation. God has made an escape for him, I Corinthians 10:13. The true believer should be recognized by his fruits, James 3:11-13.

2. It demands a life centered in God, verse 11b. As the old life of sin is given up, the new life in God is entered. Our salvation resulted in our being raised into a heavenly experience with Christ, Ephesians 2:5-6. Being made new creatures in Him, we now live a life which is actually Christ living in us, Galatians 2:20. The believer is not his own—he no longer lives for self—he belongs to God who has bought him with a great price, I Corinthians 6:19-20. Paul wisely admonishes, *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God,”* Colossians 3:1. How this life is to be lived is described in the rest of Colossians 3. The believer puts off anger, wrath, malice, etc., while he puts on mercy, kindness, love, etc. Everything that he does is centered in the will of God and works to the glory of God. In such a life the Lord is truly glorified.

3. It demands freedom from the dominion of sin, verses 12-13a. Sin is not to reign in the physical body of the believer. Its lusts are not to be obeyed. The members of the body are not to be subject to its dominion. John witnesses, *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie; and do not the truth,”* I John 1:6. Even a rapid reading of I John 3:1-10 reveals that the work of salvation is to redeem from guilt and purify for service. The believer who lives under sin's dominion has only

partially fulfilled God's purpose in him. Let the believer take heed to his deeds, words, attitudes, influence, and even his thoughts. Men will see Christians and glorify the Father in heaven only as the Christian life is consistent with the Christian profession.

4. It demands dedication to God's will, verse 13b. The Christian is alive from spiritual death and as such should be surrendered to God by whom he was resurrected into life. Even the physical body should be dedicated to religious service so that each member would be an instrument of righteousness unto God. Paul writes, *"I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service,"* Romans 12:1. Only such dedication will permit God's will to be done. True Christian dedication is like signing one's name at the bottom of a blank contract and then letting the Lord fill in the terms.

CONCLUSION — There is only one hope for the guilty sinner. He will find forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ or he will die in his sins. There is no other way, but this is enough. This salvation, once experienced, is to permeate all our life and result in our full dedication. A life of service is the response of the devout man to redemption. He who is saved by Jesus Christ is given eternal life. He has assurance of heaven because whom God saves, He keeps. This will be our topic of study next Sunday – "Eternal Security."

QUESTIONS

1. What do we mean by "Purchased Salvation"?
2. Define: "justification."
3. What place does faith have in salvation?
4. List the seven results of salvation in Romans 5:1-5.
5. What is the basis of salvation?
6. What place does human works have in salvation?
7. What does it mean to be "dead to sin"?
8. What does it mean to be "alive unto God"?
9. Discuss the two uses of the human body in Romans 6:11-13.
10. What is next Sunday's lesson? What connection does it have to today's study?