

DEVOTIONAL

WHEN IN ROME V // THEREFORE SALVATION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: What does it mean to have a personal relationship with God?

Key Text: “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.” (Romans 5:9-11)

A wealthy man had only one child, a son, who he dearly loved. Early in the boy’s childhood, the mother died, leaving just the father and the beloved son. Tragically, in his late teens, the boy died also. In the meantime, the father’s financial holdings increased.

Before his death, the father left explicit instructions that an auction be held in which his entire art collection would be sold. A big crowd of prospectors gathered. Among them were many well-known museum curators and private collectors eager to bid. Among the paintings was one that received little attention. It was of poor quality and by an unknown local artist. It happened to be a portrait of the father’s only son. Because of the painting’s poor quality, the painting didn’t receive any bids -- except one. The bidder was the old butler who’d helped raise the boy and had also dearly loved him. For less than ten dollars, he bought the painting. At that point, the auctioneer stopped the auction and asked the father’s attorney, who was in attendance, to come forward and read from the father’s will. The crowd was hushed as he read, “Whoever purchases this painting of my son, gets all of my estate -- including my entire art collection. The auction is over.” Get the son, and you get everything else included!

In today’s text, Paul points out three wonderful truths about salvation that progress from justification (v.9) to reconciliation (v.10) to relationship (v.11). The believer who accepts God’s Son not only receives forgiveness but all of these additional blessings, too!

1. Since we are justified in God’s eyes through faith in Christ, we will certainly never suffer God’s wrath for our sin.

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God” (v.9). Remember that “justified” (v9.) means that God sees me “just-as-if-I’d” never sinned! God has declared us righteous—He has declared that we are right with Him because of our faith in Jesus’ work on the cross. Paul’s reference to the blood of Christ as the basis for our justification is to say that it was the death that Jesus died on the cross that made us right with God. And as a result of God declaring us justified, “we will be saved from the wrath of God” (v.9).

Discuss: Look up the following verses about blood and discuss what the verses teach about the blood of Christ: Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:14, 22; 1 Peter 1:9.

Discuss: How would you explain God’s wrath against sin to a non-Christian?

2. We once were enemies with God, but now we are reconciled through faith in Christ’s death, and we will stay reconciled forever through Jesus’ resurrected life.

“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” (v.10). In this verse, Paul focuses on our personal relationship with God. Not only are our sins forgiven, we are justified, declared righteous, and we don’t have to fear receiving God’s wrath for our sins because of Christ’s death, but we also have a personal, dynamic relationship with God because Christ lives!

Discuss: How would you advise a new Christian to grow in a relationship with God?

Discuss: Why is Jesus’ resurrection vital to all of the benefits we experience as a Christian?

3. Now, we can rejoice and enjoy our relationship with God.

“More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” (v.11).

Romans 3:9-11 almost sounds like the wording you hear on late-night commercials when a pitchman says, “But wait, there’s more...but wait, there’s more!” The blessings of salvation keep on coming! In verse 9, Paul talks about justification, and then he writes, “*much more,*” and then in v.11, he continues “*more than that!*” Salvation is so great it gets better and better, and this causes us to “*rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (v.11)!

Notice that Paul’s statement about our wonderful salvation is in the past tense: “*we have now received reconciliation*” (v.11). This means the transaction is complete—it has all been decided; it’s a done deal. Since God is the One who accomplished it, nothing can change it, and nobody can take it away!

Discuss: What excites you the most about being a Christian?

Discuss: If someone said, “You have thirty seconds to tell me why I should become a Christian,” what would you say in those thirty seconds?

Discuss: What are some ways we can “*rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (v.11)?

For Further Study:

So Great Salvation by Charles Ryrie

“What Does it Mean to Have a Personal Relationship with God?” article at www.gotquestions.org

God the Son Incarnate: The Doctrine of Christ by Stephen Wellum