

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**  
**Romans**

**Theme:** The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

**Outline:**

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39  
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20  
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21  
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

**Slide # 2**

**THE FLOW OF ROMANS...**

Introduction/Prologue – Rom. 1:1-17

Universal Sin Problem – Rom. 1:18-3:20

Proposition: Justification by Faith Alone – Rom. 3:21-31

Justification by Faith Alone illustrated in the life of Abraham – Rom. 4:1-22

Justification by Faith Alone applied to believers in Christ – Rom. 4:23-25

Justification by Faith Alone ushers in various spiritual blessings – Rom. 5:1-11

**Slide # 3**

**Romans 5:1-5**

Justification by Faith ushers in...

- Peace with God – v. 1
- Access into a GRACE standing – v. 2

- Hope
  - Hope in the glory of God -v. 2
  - Hope produced in the life -vv. 3-4
  - Hope does not disappoint – v. 5
  - Hope sustained by God's love – v. 5

“Justified by faith” in Romans 5:1 drives the entire paragraph of Romans 5:1-11. Justification by faith ushers in a whole host of related spiritual blessings which is what Paul in this context is dealing with.

Having introduced the LOVE of God in Romans 5:5 which sustains biblical HOPE, Paul now builds on this LOVE theme. We noted last time that for people of FAITH there is a subjective/internal/spiritual/heart reality related to the LOVE of God. It is a spiritual reality ministered to our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

But now as we continue on in our study, we see that this subjective reality of knowing God's LOVE in our hearts is based on an outward objective reality as seen in the cross of Christ. The thing about the Christian faith is that it is not merely subjective but also objective. Our faith is based on HISTORY and fulfilled PROPHECY. So, there is an internal spiritual reality but this is based on concrete objective historical realities.

#### **Slide # 4**

**History:** A man called Jesus who claimed to be God died. (Objective)

**Theology:** A man called Jesus is God who died for sin. (Theology)

**Salvation:** A man called Jesus is **MY** God who died for **MY** sin.  
(Personal)

#### **Slide # 5**

##### **SUBJECTIVE**

Romans 5:5 “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts”

##### **OBJECTIVE**

Romans 5:6 “in due time Christ died”.

Romans 5:8 “God demonstrates His own love...Christ died...”

Having stated the subjective reality of the believer knowing God's love in the heart in verse 5, Paul now turns to the historical demonstration of God's love as objectively seen in the cross of Christ. Our subjective experience is based on objective reality.

### **Romans 5:6–11 (NKJV)**

**6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

When we were still without strength means when we were spiritually helpless and powerless. We were in a BAD place with no means to do anything about it. Nothing we can do gives us POWER before God.

Neither Religion or Religious rituals will help. Neither sacraments, baptism, or communion will get you there. Trying to live better won't help. Isaiah 64:6 says all the right things we do are still like filthy rags before God. While we were in this HELPLESS condition, "in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

**"In due time"** could be translated **"at the right time"**. And it is God Who determines the timing. He is in charge of the prophetic calendar (cf. Acts 1:7; 1 Cor. 10:11; Eph. 1:10; 1 Tim. 2:6, 6:15; Titus 1:3; Heb. 1:2; 9:26). This emphasizes the historicity of this event. It happened in time – in history – exactly according to what God had sovereignly determined.

### **Slide # 6**

#### **Galatians 4:4–5 (NKJV)**

**4 But when the fullness of the time had come**, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

**5 to redeem those who were under the law**, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

When Jesus began His ministry He said, **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand"** (Mk. 1:15). The night before Jesus was crucified He prayed to the Father saying, **"Father, the hour has come."** (Jn. 17:1). At each step of the way we see God sovereignly controlling the timing of what was happening to Jesus according to His pre-ordained plan (Acts 2:23).

At just the right time according to God's time schedule, **"Christ died for the ungodly"**. Note Christ did not die for the godly or for those who were working on self-reform. He died for the ungodly. Jesus said, **"For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"** (Mt. 9:13).

**Slide # 7****1 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV)****15** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

Christ dying for the ungodly shows they have no merit! They have nothing to spiritually commend them to God. Ungodly refers to those who want nothing to do with God. They show no reverence for God. They were not morally neutral but rather actively opposed to God. And left to ourselves this is where we all are. Rom. 3:10 says, “no one seeks after God”.

Christ dying for the ungodly shows God’s love is unconditional. It was not dependent upon people being good people. No one was good. As Paul says in Romans 3:12, “***There is none who does good, no, not one.***” All are unworthy! Christ died for the ungodly. This is called GRACE. We don’t deserve any favor at all – and yet Christ died for the ungodly – meaning you and me.

We were ungodly and helpless to do anything about it and in that state Christ died for us. We had nothing to commend us and everything to condemn us.

**Footnote:** The description of being “without strength” builds on the example of Abraham in chapter 4 who was completely impotent and unable to bring forth the promised child (cf. Rom. 4:19). All Abraham could do was BELIEVE God’s promise and when he did God counted it to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:3, 22).

**Slide # 8****Romans 5:6 (NKJV)****6** For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**Romans 4:5 (NKJV)****5** But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

In getting saved we come as we are. Christ died for the ungodly and we come in faith as ungodly, and the instant we put our faith in Christ, God accounts us as righteous! Amazing, God saves the UNGODLY. There is no room for boasting. There is no “holier than thou”. This is simply justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

We talk about “**Amazing Grace**” and that is right, but here Paul develops the idea of “Amazing Grace” as an expression of God’s “Amazing Love”. Paul here shows the uniqueness, the greatness, and the security found in God’s love.

**7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.**

Paul is here illustrating a point from ordinary life. Rarely would a person die for someone else. Life is precious. We cling to life. When Satan was talking to God about Job he said, “**Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.**” (Job 2:4). That is normal! Rarely would someone volunteer to die for even a righteous person (humanly speaking). Yet, perhaps for a good man there might occasionally be someone willing to die for them – but it is rare.

And even when people in rare cases are willing to die for someone, usually it is someone close to them or that has a close connection such as a family member, a lover, or a fellow soldier.

### **Slide # 9**

**John 15:13 (NKJV)**

**13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

This is the greatest demonstration of human love. But God’s love stands in stark contrast to even the greatest expression of human love. You see Christ died for ungodly sinners who were His enemies! Who dies for their enemies?

You say, “Well, I am willing to die for my wife, my husband, my child” – but how about your worst enemy? Are you willing to die for someone who detests and HATES you? That is a whole other level! That defines God’s love!

**8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

“**But**” is a contrast word. In contrast to mere human love which on occasion might be willing to die for a righteous and a good person, is the LOVE of God which dies for sinful rebels!

God demonstrated his love toward us, “in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God didn't wait for us to get our act together. He didn't wait for us to clean up our lives. No! While we were still sinners – actively living a sinful lifestyle - in our sinfulness, Christ died for us. Christ died for sinners!

If you want to be saved you have to come as a sinner! You have to humble yourself and admit I am a sinner that needs to be saved. This was the problem with the religious Jews. They were self-righteous. They didn't consider themselves lost sinners.

### **Slide # 10**

#### **Matthew 9:12–13 (NKJV)**

**12** When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

**13** But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

God in amazing grace shows love to the unlovely. The word “sinner” means one who misses the mark or comes short of God's holy standard.

On what basis do we experience the love of God in our hearts. Well, we have come to know the truth of how God demonstrated His love by sending His Son to die for us as ungodly sinners. For people of faith this truth now grips our soul with joy and gratitude.

The word “**demonstrates**” is the idea of “**proves**”. God proved His love at the cross. Jesus' arms outstretched on the cross is really an expression of LOVE – in effect saying, “***I love you this much***”. Don't look at your emotions or your feelings – look at the cross. This is proof positive of God's love. He loved us while we were still sinners. He died for the ungodly!

The great issue is what will we do in response to His love? Will we reject it or receive it?

God's love is a giving thing – a sacrificial giving. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...” (Jn. 3:16). Gal. 2:20 says of the Son of God, “who loved me and gave Himself for me.” The essence of being loving is giving – giving sacrificially.

God loves sinners. The proof is seen in the fact that Christ died for sinners. He did not die for good people, because in fact there are no good people.

**Slide # 11**

God loves us because of WHO He is not because of who we are. How do you know God loves you – because Jesus died for you! You say, “I don’t think I am worthy!” You are right about that. But the good news is Jesus died for ungodly sinners and you and I qualify.

The extent of God’s love is shown in that fact that Christ died for men in whom there was nothing that evoked that love. – **Charles Ryrie**

That is called GRACE! It is totally unmerited favor! If it be asked WHY did God do this, we must answer because in His infinite LOVE He chose to do so simply because of WHO He inherently is. There was no merit or good in us to call forth such love!

Back in the OT the issue is brought forth in Deut. 7 that God chose Israel to be a special treasure above all the peoples of the earth. And the reason given is simply, “**because the LORD loves you**” (Deut. 7:8). If you say, but why did He love them – the only explanation given is “**because**” – because He chose to do so of His own sovereign will.

This reality of God demonstrating His love toward us as ungodly sinners in the cross of Christ should cause us to worship and give thanks for the kind of God that He is!

**Slide # 12**

**1 John 4:7–8 (NKJV)**

**7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

**8** He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**

**1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19** We love Him because **He first loved us.**

Why? Because He wanted to and because it is in keeping with His very nature and the kind of God that He is.

A famous and learned theologian towards the end of his life was asked, “*What is the greatest thought that has ever gone through your mind*”. He thought for a while and then said, “***Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so***” – and I would add – and He proved it by dying for me!

**9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.**

There are four “***much more***” statements in Romans 5 – two are found here in verses 9 and 10 (also see v. 15, 17, 20). The language here moves from the greater to the lesser. This has been called “*a comparison of wonder*” where one wonderful truth is immediately followed by yet another. So, there is more upon more wonderful truths to consider.

The ground of our justification has been shown to be the blood of Christ – His death on the cross. To “justify” means to declare and treat as righteous. It is a judicial declaration like a judge would make. God as the JUDGE of the universe has ruled and He has declared believers RIGHTEOUS. This is what God does for believers. They have been declared righteous.

### **Slide # 13**

**Romans 3:24 (NKJV)**

**24** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

**Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Romans 5:9 (NKJV)**

**9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

We are justified by grace through faith with the basis of it all being the blood of Jesus!

Note that for believers JUSTIFICATION is an already established fact. At the moment of faith, we are justified! A drawn-out process is NOT involved. Instantly we go from the category of ungodly to justified – purely on the basis of grace through faith.



But God having done the HEAVY work of having provided justification on the basis of Christ's blood, causes Paul to say in light of that ***"we shall [future tense] be saved from wrath through Him."***

Having been justified we now have the assurance that God will protect us from any and all aspects of wrath in the future. Currently God's wrath is on display towards those given over to their sin as seen in Romans 1. God in His wrath just lets them go (Rom. 1:18). But believers will never face this reality. God disciplines His children as a responsible heavenly Father, but they never experience His wrath (cf. Heb. 12:7-11).

The world is headed for a time of worldwide judgment but the world is blind to it. But we know it because the Bible tells us so. This is what the book of Revelation is largely about from chapter 6-18. This is called the coming ***"Day of the Lord"*** which is a time of judgment in which God's wrath will be poured out on the whole world. Right now, we are in a time of GRACE and God is inviting the world to repent, but judgment day is coming.

#### **Slide # 14**

##### **Revelation 6:16–17 (NKJV)**

**16** and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and **from the wrath** of the Lamb!

**17** For the **great day of His wrath** has come, and who is able to stand?"

But we as God's people will be spared from this because Jesus has promised to take us out of the world before this happens.

#### **Slide # 15**

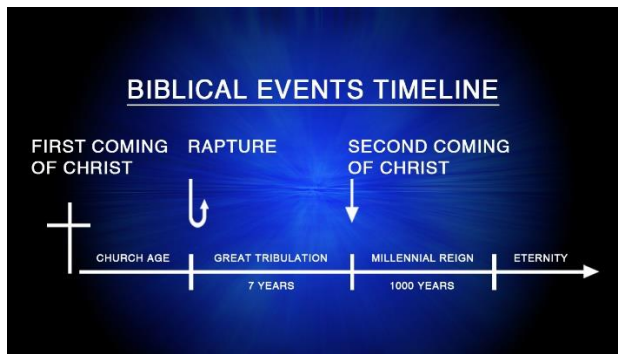
##### **1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)**

**10** and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus **who delivers us from the wrath to come**.

##### **1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)**

**9** For God did **not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation** [deliverance] through our Lord Jesus Christ,

#### **Slide # 16**



And then there is the final judgment of unbelievers which Paul calls “the day of wrath” in Romans 2:5. Unbelievers are storing up wrath against themselves and at the great white throne judgment (the judgment of unbelievers) where they will be judged accordingly. They will all go to hell, but there are degrees of punishment in hell.

But here is the point. Jesus at the cross took all the punishment for our sin. He took all the wrath of God for sin on the cross. He paid it all. This is where that word “propitiation” comes in. Propitiation means “to satisfy or appease God’s wrath”. This is what Jesus did for us on the cross. In Romans 3:25 Paul said God set forth Jesus “as a propitiation by His blood” which is appropriated “through faith”.

### **Slide # 17**

**1 John 2:2 (NKJV)**

**2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

**1 John 4:10 (NKJV)**

**10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Therefore, no wrath will ever be directed to God’s people because on behalf of the believer Christ has forever appeased God’s wrath directed towards our sin. Having been justified we are NEVER in danger of experiencing the wrath of God in the future.

### **Slide # 18**

**John 5:24 (NKJV)**

**24** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

### Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

**1** There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Not only are we justified (declared righteous) but we also are saved from any threat of wrath in the future. We are not looking at wrath in our future, but rather in our position of GRACE we now “**rejoice in hope of the glory of God**” (Rom. 5:2). The unbeliever is headed for WRATH but we as believers are headed for GLORY!

**Footnote:** The Bible speaks of salvation in three tenses, past, present, and future. We have been saved from the penalty of sin (past), we are currently being saved from the power of sin (Present -Romans 6) and in the future we will be saved from the very presence of sin.

### Slide # 19

Three Tenses of Salvation			
TIME	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Effect	Deliverance from penalty of sin	Deliverance from power of sin	Deliverance from presence of sin
Theological Terms	Justification Rom 5:1 Rom 8:1	Progressive Sanctification 1 Cor 1:18 Phip 2:12, 13 Rom 6-8	Glorification Rom 13:11 Rom 8:30 1 Peter 1:5

**10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

Verse 10 makes the same essential point of security as verse 9 but with a slightly different nuance.

As unbelievers we were enemies of God. We were not on good terms. We were hostile towards God. We were rebel enemies. A person might not even think they are in this category but if they are not saved, in truth, in their hearts, they are rebel enemies of God (cf. Rom. 8:7).

### Slide # 20

**Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)**

**21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

Note the description of those who don't know the Lord.

**Slide # 21**

v. 6 – without strength

v. 6 – ungodly

v. 8 – sinners

v. 10 - enemies

Before FAITH this was our position before God. But now on the basis of faith we have been reconciled to God through the death of His Son. Jesus has made reconciliation with God possible – and He did it through His death on the cross. This was all Christ's doing.

Reconciled is the idea of going from a hostile relationship of enmity to now one of friendship. We were on bad terms with God, but now as believers we are on good terms.

We have reconciled on the basis of the cross – which is the only basis a person can be reconciled to God. Provision has been made whereby reconciliation is possible. The only thing God asks is FAITH! We are justified by faith on the basis of Christ's blood.

Note that we as believers HAVE been reconciled. It is already a done deal. The moment you place saving faith in Christ, instantly you are reconciled to God. This idea of having been reconciled is parallel with have now been justified in verse 9. Justified is a legal term while reconciliation is more a relational term, but both point to the idea that we are now right with God. As the **JUDGE** God has pronounced us righteous; as the **FATHER** He has reconciled us and welcomed us home.

Having been reconciled, Paul then says on this basis, “We ***shall be saved by His life.***” This is the other side of salvation. We are saved by what Christ did in on the cross, but our security rests in the fact that in His resurrection He ever lives for us.

Christ's resurrection life means that Christ is always there representing us as our Savior! If for one moment we did not have Christ representing us before God we would instantly be lost forever. But we as believers shall always remain in the position of saved because Jesus ever lives for us.

### **Slide # 22**

#### **Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)**

**25** Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Do you realize the devil never gives up on trying to get you back. He still has limited access to heaven. And whenever you mess up guess what he does. He flits off to heaven to accuse you and say you should be damned. Rev. 12:10 says he accuses us "***before our God day and night***".

The devil knows that if Jesus for one second was not there as our advocate we would instantly be lost. But praise God Jesus died for our sins and it was satisfactory, but then on the other side of the coin - He ever lives to defend us and stand for us so that no charges against us will ever stick. In this way we are saved both by the death of Christ but also by His life.

### **Slide # 23**

#### **1 John 2:1 (NKJV)**

**1** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

Being justified by Christ's blood we will face no future wrath; being reconciled we are saved and kept secure forever by Christ's resurrection life. Indeed, Christ is a LIVING Savior! There is a very close parallel between being justified and being reconciled.

### **Slide # 24**

v. 9

***justified***

by His blood  
shall be saved

v. 10

***reconciled***

through the death of His Son  
shall be saved

Paul is still building on the truth of God's LOVE and showing how the LOVE of God known by the believer brings with it security!

Jesus died, and Jesus lives – these are the truths that contain everything for us. All that a dying and a living Savior can do is ours.

– **Andrew Bonar**

So, if it is the death of Christ that wipes out all our sins and gives us justification and righteousness in the sight of God, it is His life that keeps us safe forever. – **Alva McClain**

### **Slide # 25**

**Romans 8:34 (NKJV)**

**34** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Our justification was secured by the death of Christ; our preservation is secured by His unending life. Thus, the death and resurrection life of Christ constitute the full gospel and this full gospel means everything to us.

### **Slide # 26**

***THE BELIEVER'S POSITION (Rom. 5:9-10)***

- 1) Having been **justified** by His blood
- 2) Shall be **saved from wrath**
- 3) As enemies we were **reconciled** through the death of Christ
- 4) Shall be **saved [preserved] by His life**

“The argument of these two verses [Romans 5:9-10] is, I suggest, the most powerful argument with respect to assurance of salvation, or the finality of our salvation, that can be found anywhere in the whole of the Scripture.” - **Martyn Lloyd-Jones** wrote (*Romans: Assurance* [Zondervan], p. 128)

Let no one try to be reconciled to God through good works, prayers, sacraments, dedication, or whatever efforts – religious or otherwise. We were reconciled to God while being His enemies, through the death of His Son. That alone is the basis of reconciliation. If as an enemy, God has reconciled us on the basis of FAITH ALONE, then surely as His friend we are now forever safe through His resurrection life. If in death He saved us, He surely will not lose us in life!

There are two sides to the reality of RECONCILIATION.

**Slide # 27**

**RECONCILIATION**

***Divine Side – Provision Made***

**Romans 5:10 (NKJV)**

**10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

**2 Corinthians 5:19 (NKJV)**

**19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

**Slide # 28**

**RECONCILIATION**

***Human Side – Faith Response***

**Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)**

**20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

**11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.**

Not only are we justified and reconciled – saved from wrath and saved for all eternity by the unending life of Christ – “but we also rejoice in God.”

Our position as believers causes us to REJOICE in what God has done! This is so good as to be incredible beyond what we can grasp. But in the wonder of it all we REJOICE.

The word “rejoice” is the same word used back in verse 2 and verse 3. It is sometimes translated as “boast” or “glory”. It is the idea of exultant rejoicing with great enthusiasm.

What a transformation! We have gone from being ungodly sinners who were the enemies of God – to now REJOICING IN HIM! We celebrate and glory in what God has done in reconciling us to Himself. And we will never get over it. For all eternity the celebration will roll on!

And that has only been made possible “***through our Lord Jesus Christ***”. He is the ONE mediator that brings us into right relationship with God (1 Tim. 2:5).

### **Slide # 29**

**Lord** (God-Master)

**Jesus** (God-Savior)

**Christ** (Anointed/Chosen One)

We owe everything to our Lord Jesus Christ through whom our salvation was made possible.

It is through Him that we “***have now received the reconciliation***”.

Note the double emphasis in verse 10 and 11 that the reconciliation is a completed and done deal for us as believers.

### **Slide # 30**

“having been reconciled”

“have now received the reconciliation”

We are not hoping this will come to pass or be worked out. No, it is already an established reality. At the moment of faith, on the basis of Christ’s death we have been reconciled to God.

In Romans 5:1-11 we find that on the basis of FAITH we HAVE these KEY things.



**Slide # 31**

**Romans 5:1** -- We have **peace** with God.

**Romans 5:2** -- We have **access** and a **standing** in grace.

**Romans 5:11** -- We have received **reconciliation**.

In this section of Romans (3:21- 5:21) we are studying there are FOUR KEY theological terms related to our salvation.

**Slide # 32**

- ***Justification*** "To be declared righteous"
- ***Redemption*** "To free by paying a price"
- ***Propitiation*** "To appease/satisfy God's wrath"
- ***Reconciliation*** "To be restored to a harmonious relationship"
- It's all based on JESUS and personally appropriated by FAITH.

In Romans 5:1-11 there is a triple emphasis on REJOICING....

**Slide # 33**

1) **FUTURE:** --"we rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (v.2)

2) **PRESENT:** --"we rejoice in tribulations, knowing..." (v.3)

3) **PAST:** --"we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (v.11)

We celebrate our relationship with God. We celebrate what He has done for us to reconcile us to Himself; we rejoice in what He is currently doing to build our character; and we rejoice in the hope of future glory.

**The Wesley** brothers (John and Charles) lived in the 1700s. They were involved in a revival movement that spearheaded the development of the Methodist movement. Charles wrote a hymn that we still sing today. In celebration of his conversion, he wrote: "*And can it be that I should gain?*"

It has the refrain:

Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

**Elizabeth Ritchie** was at **John Wesley's bedside** during his final hours. She recounted his final words in this way...She wrote:

*"...finding we could not understand what he said, he paused a little, and then with all the remaining strength he had, cried out, '**The best of all is, God is with us**'; and then... lifting up his dying arm in token of victory and raising his feeble voice with a holy triumph... again repeated the heart-reviving words, "**The best of all is, God is with us!**"* The Journal of John Wesley, ed., Percy Livingstone Parker, (Chicago, IL: Moody Press), 419

How wonderful that the death and life of our Lord Jesus Christ forever assures us that for all eternity we as believers have been reconciled to God.

Indeed, "**The best of all is, God is with us!**"