

Our "Much More" Salvation

In the fifth chapter of Romans, in describing the wonderful salvation we have in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul uses the expression "**much more**" several times. This expression is used as a contrast to show us how our New Covenant in the blood of Jesus is so much better than any other covenant God had with mankind before. Hebrews 8:6 tells us that Jesus is the "Mediator of a **BETTER covenant**, which was established on **BETTER promises**," and Hebrews 11:39-40 says that the Old Testament heroes of the faith never received the fulfillment of the promises, but that "God has provided **something BETTER for us**" in that we are the ones who receive the complete salvation of God.

- **Romans 5:8-9** "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **MUCH MORE then**, having now been JUSTIFIED by His BLOOD, we shall be saved from WRATH through Him. 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."
- **Romans 5:15-17** "But the FREE GIFT is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, **MUCH MORE** the grace of God and the GIFT by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the FREE GIFT which came from many offenses resulted in JUSTIFICATION. For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, **MUCH MORE** those who receive abundance of GRACE and of the GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS will REIGN IN LIFE through the One, Jesus Christ."

Let's look at some of the benefits of our "**much more**" salvation that are mentioned in these Scriptures: **(1.)** God's love for us; **(2.)** Justification by His blood; **(3.)** We are saved from God's wrath; **(4.)** We are no longer enemies, but are reconciled to God; **(5.)** We are saved by His life; **(6.)** Abundance of grace; **(7.)** Righteousness as a free gift; and **(8.)** We will reign with Christ.

1.) God's love for us

"But **God demonstrates His own LOVE toward us**, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **God loves us just because it is His nature to love.** In fact, I John 4:7-8 says that "love is from God" and "**God is love.**" The fact that it was "**while we were STILL SINNERS**" that "Christ died for us" shows us that God did not and does not love us because of anything loveable or good about us. And **God's LOVE** is a perfect LOVE. "There is no FEAR in LOVE; but **PERFECT LOVE** casts out fear" (I John 4:18). As believers under the New Testament (covenant), our judgment (and thus the "fear") is taken away by Christ on the cross (II Cor. 5:21, I Peter 2:24). In I John 4:17 it says, "**that we may have boldness (NO FEAR!) in the day of judgment**" because our sins were taken away at the cross. Also, it says, "as He is, so are we in this world," which means God sees us as righteous and as perfect as Jesus. Because of **His LOVE for us**, God sent Jesus to be the PROPITIATION for our sins. "Propitiation" means something that gains the favor or goodwill of someone else. **The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross GAINED** God's GOOD WILL and FAVOR for us, and satisfied His justice, so that we can enter into RELATIONSHIP with Him.

- **I John 4:9-10 & 16-19** "In this **the LOVE of God** was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 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." "And we have known and believed **the LOVE that God has for us God is LOVE**, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world. There is no FEAR in LOVE;** but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment (judgment, punishment). But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because **He first LOVED us.**"

- **John 3:16** "For **God so LOVED the world (that's you and me)** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

2.) Justification by His blood

"MUCH MORE then, having now been JUSTIFIED by His blood" (Romans 5:9). Justification or the ACT of being justified means that God by His GRACE **declares us RIGHTEOUS** when we believe on Jesus Christ, even while we are still in our SINFUL state. Notice how it says "having been justified"? That's past tense, **a done deal!** It is **NOT a process of becoming** righteous, **it is a ONE-TIME ACT of GRACE** - we are **MADE RIGHTEOUS** the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior! **Being justified** is NOT merely being FORGIVEN, although forgiveness is INCLUDED - God does indeed FORGIVE and FORGET our SINS. However, **JUSTIFICATION means God even FORGETS that we were EVER SINNERS!** There is NO MORE RECORD of our sins. This is indeed "much more" salvation!

- **Hebrews 10:19** "Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest (the Holy of Holies - the very presence of God) **by the BLOOD of Jesus.**"
- **Galatians 2:16** "Knowing that a man is not **justified** by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith in Christ** and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law (keeping the Old Testament commandments) no flesh shall be justified."
- **Titus 3:7** "That **having been JUSTIFIED by His grace** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."
- **Romans 3:24 & 28** "Being **justified freely** (as a free gift) by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." "Therefore we conclude that a man is **JUSTIFIED by FAITH** apart from the deeds of the law."

3.) We are SAVED from God's WRATH

"MUCH MORE then, having now been justified by His BLOOD, **we shall be saved from WRATH** through Him" (Romans 5:9). **God's wrath** means God's ANGER against SIN - the PUNISHMENT that we deserve for violating God's laws and falling short of His perfect standards. The wonderful truth of the gospel (gospel means "good news") is that **God's wrath** was all poured out on His Son Jesus Christ on the cross, so that we ourselves don't have to be punished for our sins. God's perfect justice has been satisfied, and the price has been PAID in FULL! Only a person who rejects Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross will have to suffer God's wrath.

- **John 3:36** "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does NOT believe the Son shall not see life, but **the WRATH of God** abides (remains) on him."
- **I Thessalonians 5:9** "For **God did NOT appoint us to WRATH**, but to obtain **salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- **I Thessalonians 1:9-10** "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even **Jesus who delivers us from the WRATH to come.**"

4.) We are no longer ENEMIES, but are RECONCILED to God

"For if when we were ENEMIES we were RECONCILED to God through the death of His Son, **MUCH MORE**, having been reconciled" (Romans 5:10). **Reconcile** means to **restore** to friendship or harmony; to **BRING TOGETHER that which was separated**. God and man were in perfect harmony and fellowship before Adam sinned, but SIN brought division, death and separation, so that now we MUST be **RECONCILED** to God. "**ENMITY**" means hostility, being an **ENEMY**. We were **ENEMIES** of God because we constantly failed to keep His **laws** and **commandments**.

- **Colossians 1:20-22** "And by Him (Jesus) to **RECONCILE all things** to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And **you, who once were alienated and ENEMIES** in your mind by wicked works, yet now **He has RECONCILED** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and irreproachable (nothing BAD to say about you) in His sight."
- **Romans 8:6-7** "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal (unsaved) mind is **ENMITY against God**; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."
- **II Cor. 5:18-20** "Now all things are of **God, who has reconciled us to Himself** through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 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**. Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.**"

5.) We are **SAVED** by His **LIFE**

"**MUCH MORE**, having been reconciled, **we shall be SAVED by His LIFE**" (Romans 5:10). Now that we belong to God, we have SECURITY - He will keep us, guard us and deliver (save) us by His power. Jesus is also our advocate (defense attorney) and intercessor (He prays for us), so that **we are kept SAFE by the LIVING, resurrected Lord Jesus Christ**. Jesus is DEFENDING and PROTECTING US by His intercessory PRAYER for us. We are spiritually complete, blessed with every possible spiritual blessing, and invited to partake of (share in) the very nature of God. What more could you want? It's ALL in JESUS!

- **Romans 8:31-34** "What then shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things**? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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.**"
- **I John 2:1** "My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an ADVOCATE with the Father, Jesus Christ** the righteous."
- **Ephesians 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **ALL spiritual blessings** in heavenly places IN CHRIST."
- **Hebrews 7:25-26** "Therefore He (Jesus) is also **able to SAVE** to the uttermost (completely, forever) those who come to God through Him, since **He ever (always) lives to make intercession for them**. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless (sinless), undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens."
- **II Peter 1:3-4** "As His divine power has **given to us ALL things that pertain to LIFE and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine nature.....**"

6.) Abundance of **GRACE**

"MUCH MORE those who receive **abundance of GRACE**" (Romans 5:17). Grace means God's **FAVOR or love and ACCEPTANCE** given to us **WITHOUT** our doing **ANYTHING!! We cannot earn it or pay for it or work for it!! Grace** is God giving us **GOOD THINGS** we **DON'T** deserve, and **mercy** is God **NOT** giving us the **punishment we DO DESERVE**.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For **by GRACE** you have been saved through **faith**, and that **not of yourselves**, it is the **GIFT of God**; not of works lest anyone should boast."
- **Titus 3:3-7** "For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when **the KINDNESS and the LOVE of God our Savior** toward man appeared, **not** by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He **SAVED** us, by the washing of regeneration (being born again) and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us **ABUNDANTLY through Jesus Christ our Savior**, that **having been justified by His GRACE** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

7.) RIGHTEOUSNESS as a FREE GIFT

"MUCH MORE those who receive abundance of GRACE and of **the GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS**" (Romans 5:17). **God MAKES us righteous** when we **BELIEVE** in Jesus Christ and **RECEIVE** Him as our Lord and Savior. That **RIGHTEOUSNESS is a GIFT, not** something we can **EARN**. As in Romans 9:31-33 and 10:1-4, the Jews, and many other people today **REFUSE to ACCEPT salvation as a FREE GIFT** from God. They continue **to TRY TO EARN salvation** and "seek to establish their own righteousness", and thus miss out on God's righteousness altogether.

- **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might be made **the righteousness of God** in Him."
- **Romans 4:5** "But to him who does not **WORK** (doing good deeds in order to try to earn salvation) but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, **his FAITH is accounted for RIGHTEOUSNESS.**"
- **I Peter 2:24** "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree (cross), that we, having died to sins, might **live for RIGHTEOUSNESS** - by whose stripes (wounds) you were healed."
- **Romans 10:1-4** "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they **being ignorant of God's righteousness**, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. **For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who BELIEVES.**"

8.) We will REIGN with Christ

"MUCH MORE those who receive abundance of GRACE and of the GIFT of RIGHTEOUSNESS will **REIGN in LIFE** through the One, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17). **We as believers in Jesus Christ will RULE and REIGN as kings (Rev. 1:6) with Him** in the 1,000 year millennial kingdom, and also for all eternity in the New Jerusalem. We will also judge angels and be seated on thrones with Jesus as He judges the unsaved (I Cor. 6:2-3). With all of this in mind, it is a little easier to accept the hardships, pain, persecution, and tribulations of this earthly life. When it says, "reign in life" through Jesus Christ, the "life" referred to is everlasting life with God. Believers in Christ do not always "reign in life" here on this earth, and many times just the opposite.

- **II Timothy 2:11-12** "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him, if we endure, **we shall also REIGN with Him.....**"

- **Revelation 22:3-5** "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. and there shall be no night there; they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And **they shall REIGN forever** and ever."

Some people, perhaps because of low self-esteem, or the way they were taught wrongly, do not see themselves **as God sees them, and as they truly are in Christ**. They still have the idea that they must somehow "deserve" God's grace or their salvation, or "work hard to keep themselves saved." They have an idea that their salvation is a tenuous thing, something infirm, that can easily slip away, especially if they fall into sin "one time too many" (where is that in the Bible?). They feel unworthy, and somehow think that their salvation is based on their worthiness. They might say, "Oh! I'm not good enough to reign with Christ!" **God has promised us and GIVEN us "MUCH MORE" than we could ever deserve**, and none of us is worthy of His love, blessings, forgiveness, and salvation. In fact, **God delights in choosing the "foolish things of this world"** instead of the things (or people) who SEEM to be more worthy. He chooses the weak, foolish, base (lowly), and despised ones, because then OUR PRIDE does not get in the way, and He gets the glory and praise.

- **I Corinthians 1:26-29** "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But **God has chosen the foolish things of the world** to put to shame the wise, and **God has chosen the weak things of the world** to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world, and the things which are despised God has chosen, (verse 29) That no flesh (no human being) should glory in His presence."

Let's rejoice and give God the glory, because He has chosen us IN SPITE OF anything we could contribute, so don't feel bad that you're "not good enough" or feel that you are unworthy of God's love. Hallelujah! Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and **you can say, "I am a sinner! He came to SAVE me!"** God chooses the foolish, weak, base (lowly) and despised things of this world, so if you sometimes feel like you are too foolish, too weak, too lowly, or too despised for anyone to want you, you know **you are EXACTLY what God wants! Jesus said, "Without Me, you can do nothing"** (John 15:5), so rejoice and be happy that you have nothing to bring to God, or offer Him, and neither does anyone else. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins." (Ecclesiastes 7:20). "There is none righteous, not even one. There is none who understands, there is none who seeks after God. All have turned aside, together they have become useless; **there is none who does good**, there is not even one." (Romans 3:10-12)

What if you are not sure if you are a part of this wonderful "much more" salvation? You can be absolutely sure, as I John 5:13 tells us we can "know that we have eternal life (salvation)." If you have never prayed to ask Jesus to be your Savior, or if you're not sure, pray this prayer and RECEIVE Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today: **Almighty God, I realize that I am a sinner, and that I cannot save myself. I am willing to REPENT and TURN AWAY from my sins, and accept the WAY that You have provided for me to be saved - JESUS! I believe in my heart that You, Lord JESUS are the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD. I believe that You, JESUS, are the sinless Son of God who PAID the PENALTY on the CROSS for MY SINS as You shed Your BLOOD for me. I believe You were RAISED from the DEAD - You are ALIVE and able to save me. I RECEIVE You as my Lord and Savior. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and take CONTROL of my life!**

- **I John 5:11-13** "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."