

Delivered

Romans 5:9-11

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A. At Peace With God (v. 9):

1. While we were still helpless – We were powerless and unable to overcome sinful habits or thoughts because we lacked the spiritual and physical ability to be able to rescue ourselves from those powerful habits and thoughts that our sin nature persistently had over us.
2. At the right time - It was not convenient for the Lord to come down and die on the cross, but it was definitely necessary because of the condition we were in with no power to overcome the effects of our sin nature, doomed for hell. His timing was perfect (Gal. 4:4) and His love blessed us.
 - a) The appointed moment in God's redemptive plan (Mark 1:15; Gal. 4:4).
 - b) The fullness of time is consummating time, "the crowning dispensation," "the consummation of the ages" (Heb. 9:26), the time upon which all other times converge and in which God's purpose of the ages reaches its fulfillment (Acts. 2:17; 1 Cor. 10:11; 1Tim. 2:6; Tit. 1:3; Heb. 1:2).
3. Die – Christ willingly gave up His life, once and for all, to rescue us from the power of sin. Christ understood that He would have to do something, and because He is life and life abundantly (John 10:10), He had never experienced sin, nor would he ever again. Even though He understood how horrible it was to take on sin, and that God would have to turn His back on Him, He still did what goes against his nature just to save us from ever dying again (2 Corinthians 5:6).
4. Ungodly - Christ did not find us living in accordance with His word or even trying to seek Him (Romans 3:9-11). He found us with no reverence for Him, practicing principles that are opposed to His Word. Yet He still sought to draw us to Himself (John 1:11-13; 6:44).
5. Ungodly - Christ totally knew whom He was dying for. It is demonstrated before the cross and while He was on the cross. His response to the thief, who was at one point mocking Him, and those before Him who mocked Him and crucified Him (Luke 23:34, 39-43) vividly depicted the ungodliness of mankind. God's love was explicitly exposed because man's ungodliness was at its worst from the time Christ was arrested.

6. One would hardly die for a righteous man - A person may find it very difficult to purposefully put an end to their life for a person who faithfully demonstrates their faith by their works; a person who is committed to consistently live in conformity to the standards of God, not to mention a person who does not conform to God's standards.
 - a) The difference between these two assertions probably lies in a distinction between "righteous" and "good," illustrated by the Gnostics, who contrasted the "righteous" god of the Old Testament with the "good" god of the New (see Irenaeus, *Haer.* 1.27.1). In order to underscore the magnitude of God's love for us, Paul reminds his readers that it is extremely rare for a human being to give his or her life for a person who is upright and moral, though one can find examples of people giving their lives for people they love. Yet God has given Christ to die for people who were hostile to him.¹¹
7. Good man – A good man is described as someone who seeks to do what benefits the lives of others so that their actions please the Lord. They have a good heart and are always seeking to make everyone around them productive. Because of this a person may consider dying for such a person.
8. Dare; Courage - Because a good man's life benefits the lives of others, someone may continuously, boldly shun fear and die for such a person.
9. Dare; Courage - If these two circumstances are only possibilities, then there is no one who would die for a helpless person that is a sinner, but Christ did.

B. Saved by Christ's Life (v. 10):

1. Were enemies - We once had no desire to do anything the Lord ask us to do. If we were pushed we sometimes became hateful or even hostile to the person who kept bringing up the gospel. Even after salvation was provided to us, as the Lord reminds us that we can at times become hostile towards what His scriptures teach (Romans 8:5-8).
 - a) The Movement of God toward man comes with a view to break down man's hostility, to commend God's love and holiness to him and to convince him of the enormity and the consequence of sin. It is God who initiates this movement in the person and work of Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:6,8; 2 Cor. 5:18, 19; Ephesians 1:6; 1 John 4:19).
2. Were enemies - Christ came to His own people, who were supposed to be looking

forward to seeing the Messiah, who even knew where He would be born (Matthew 2:3-6), but they did not receive Him (John 1:11-13). Their rejection is vividly portrayed in everything leading up to His crucifixion as well as the brutality of Christ's crucifixion.

3. Reconciled - Christ took on the judgment due to mankind because of our sins (even when we were hostile towards Him and rejected Him) and died for us. Because He paid the full price of sin, peace between God and man was established for all those who accept God's forgiveness of sin (Ephesians 2:13-19). This is because God laid aside His wrath towards mankind. Christ took all of God's wrath for us. Christ had to take on the wrath of God and the wrath of all those who crucified Him.
 - a) Redemption pertains to sin (Rom. 3:24), propitiation (or satisfaction) pertains to God (3:25), and reconciliation is for people (cf. we were reconciled). Reconciliation is the removal of enmity that stands between people and God (cf. "enemies" in 5:10; Col. 1:21). Reconciliation is the basis of restored fellowship between people and God (cf. 2 Cor. 5:20-21).^[2]
4. Reconciled - Because of God's salvific process and Christ sacrifice, we can now have a friendship with the Lord God as a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives (John 15:1-13). We now, because of the Holy Spirit's presence, angels surrounding us (Hebrews 1:14) and being in Christ (Ephesians 2:6) who is in God (Colossians 3:1-4) live in heavenly places (Ephesians 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12). We are totally re-established in our relationship with the Lord God.
5. Death – Christ allowed death to completely take over Him so that while God was momentarily separated, (Matthew 27:46) Christ died. This is because He bore all of mankind's sin. God could no longer associate with Christ and Christ had to go to the grave and remain there three days and three nights. This was a full payment for mankind's sin (Romans 5:15; Adam's sin led to death so death must be overcome to totally remove the power of sin) so that God no longer—once a person accepts Christ—has a reason to separate Himself from those who are saved; because of Christ death and resurrection we went from death to life (Separation from God is death because God is life). This is why we can now have a relationship with the Lord so that we can be just like Christ (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
 - a) Christ death was such a full payment that God needed nothing else from man. Mankind can now have an even more powerful and meaningful relationship, than the relationship Adam and Eve had with God.
6. Having been reconciled - This word for reconciliation means that God laid aside His wrath, because of Christ death, and recreated a renewed friendship with all those who

accept Christ death and resurrection with a complete willingness to do what He says (Romans 10:9; *“and believe in your heart”*).

- a) Since reconciliation was accomplished by Jesus’ death, certainly, His life is able to insure the complete and final salvation for believers. “His life” is His present life (not His life on earth) in which He intercedes (Heb. 7:25) for believers. He died for His enemies; surely, He will save those, His former enemies, who are now fellowshipping in Him. ^[3]
7. We shall be saved - Because we are delivered from sin in Christ, it has no more power over us (Romans 6:5-7; 8:12-17) because the Spirit of God lives inside of us (John 14:16-17; Titus 3:4-8) and He reminds of us of the scripture (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-15), convicts us of sins (John 16:7-11), guides us to walk in the truth (John 16:13; 1 John 1:5-7), prays for us when we are hurting (Romans 8:26) and provides us the strength to overcome Satan's attacks (1 John 4:4). This is why Philippians 2:12-13 says, "for it is God who is at work in you...." (Ephesians 2:10).
 8. By His life – Christ lived through every trial that a person can be subjected to and did not sin (1 Peter 2:21-25) so that when we experience the gift of life through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, our suffering perfects us (James 1:2-4) manifesting the life of Christ in us so that "we no longer live..." (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21). This also blesses us eternally to be rewarded with the “Crown of Life.” (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10). The direct result of His death is the powerful work of His life in us so that we have life abundantly (John 10:10). His life in us is our salvation.
 - a) When we are justified, we are saved from the wrath of God. When we reconciled, we are saved by His life and our reconciliation provides us the opportunity to experience Christ life working in and through us so that we can approach life confidently.

C. Confident and Blessed (v. 11):

1. We exult in God; boast - The victory that Christ’s death, our new life and friendship with God provides, is the confidence that we can continuously face life knowing that we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:31-39).
2. Through our Lord Jesus Christ – The only way we can maintain our confidence is to continually trust in the power and authority of our Lord, because Christ was fully human and believed He could sympathize with us (Jesus), and because He is and was always Holy, we can overcome sin (Romans 6:5-7). We can accomplish anything in this life and

be successful “through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 6:11-18; Philippians 4:13).

- a) In the immediate context the promised deliverance is more than eschatological. It is a daily deliverance from the power and dominion of sin. God has made every provision for us to live out our lives in holiness. His abiding presence provides the power to break free from the control of sin (6:18). Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, p. 138). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.
3. Through whom we have received the reconciled - We have obtained, forever, restoration with God so that we experience the Lord's favor being richly bestowed upon us (Romans 10:12; 1 Timothy 6:17; Hebrews 10:35). This is because God's disposition towards us is to be our friend (John 15:13) since Christ atoned for all of mankind's sins.
- a) Not only shall the justified person escape the wrath of God by the death of Christ, but also, he or she shall obtain joy in God because of Christ's life. The word translated rejoice is the same as is translated glory in v. 3. The blessings which justification brings to its recipients permeate in joy through our Lord Jesus Christ. This last expression is identical to that found in v. 1 of this chapter. All that we have we owe to Him, the Lord Jesus Christ.^[4]

^[1] Arnold, C. E. (2002). *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Romans to Philemon*. (Vol. 3, p. 30). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

^[2] Witmer, J. A. (1985). [Romans](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 457). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

^[3] Witmer, J. A. (1985). [Romans](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 457). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

^[4] Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (p. 1432). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.