

# Romans - God's Heart Explained

Week #6: The Gifts of Justification

November 10, 2019

Paul's letter to the Christians living in Rome is perhaps the most influential book of the Bible outside the four Gospels. Its influence lies in the way God's heart is explained, and how His heart powerfully interrupts our empty existence. The American Pastor, Charles Swindoll describes Romans as God's grace invading the sin-fueled storms of our humanity - a grace that puts an end to our emptiness by offering forgiveness, new life through Jesus Christ and hope both for this present life we live and what lies beyond.<sup>1</sup> More than any other book, Romans explains our depravity, God's holiness, Christ's redemption and what new life in Jesus really means. You cannot follow Jesus well without comprehending what Paul writes to the Christians in Rome.

Our Sunday teaching on Romans this fall will speak to some of these deep truths that we must grow familiar with: human depravity; justification through faith; sanctification in Christ; glorification in God. But the mind is never the target ... it's our heart that matters. So, while engaging our minds with the goal of renewing them, we will consistently target our heart - because God wants our affections not merely our assent.

## **Study Questions: Our Security in Christ.**

### **Read Romans 5:1-11**

1. After reading (Romans 1-3:20) about humanity's total depravity, how refreshing it is to discover the gifts God brings us through Christ's death that justifies our need for righteousness and satisfies God's need for justice (Romans 3:20- 5:11).
  - Look again at the words, *peace, grace & hope*, all found in verses 1-2. How would you explain these words to someone asking you what they mean?
  - Which one means the most to you? Explain why to the rest of your group.
2. Read verses 3-5 again. Why do we find it difficult to rejoice in tribulation & boast in suffering?
  - Who do you know that "suffered well" because of their faith in Jesus Christ? What were they like, and how did they portray the joy of Christ through their darkest moments?
3. Read verses 6-8. Pastor Ken did not really touch on these, but they are very familiar and carry great meaning and power.
  - Jesus said that he came for sinners and the sick, not the healthy ... and this all sounds wonderful until we are challenged to follow him by also serving the sick, the poor, the unhealthy & the unwanted. Think about who these people may be around you today. What makes it challenging to care for them? What can you do? What will it cost you?
4. Read verses 6-10. Recall the condition of your life when Christ saved you and decide on two of the most radical changes Jesus has made in your life since He justified you. Thank him for it.
5. Verse 11 is about our worship. We rejoice - we boast joyfully - in the reconciliation we have received. We are now friends with God, and nothing can separate us from Him.
  - What do you say to someone who argues that they can lose their salvation? Is it really possible that we receive salvation as a free gift, but must live the rest of our lives conditionally through our works? Is Jesus really enough?

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<sup>1</sup> Swindoll, Charles. Insight for Living Bible Study Guide: Romans 1-5. 1977, Insight for Living, Fullerton CA. Back cover.