Once Saved; Always Saved

 Romans 5:1-11

Introduction:

The title of this message causes some misgivings even among those who know and love the Lord. It seems like a “license to sin.” Paul will answer that thought in 6:1.

He asks, “Shall we continue in sin that Grace may abound?” His answer is a resounding, μὴ γένοιτo, lit.”May it never be”; “God forbid” [KJV] “Certainly not” [NKJV]. Those words are found 15 times in the N.T. – all but one in Paul. (Luke 20:16). 10 times in Rom., 3 times in Galatians, one time in 1 Corinthians. 6:1

The Bible teaches that salvation cannot be lost; nor can anyone take it away. (John 10:28; Romans 8:31-39). These are very strong passages. But, there are some Scripture passages which seem to teach that salvation can be lost. Hebrews 6 and Hebrews 10. Are among the strongest. Then 1st John, James chapter 2, and other passages.

[May I suggest that you go to the Church website and find the passage in question in Rev.’s sermons. No charge ever. And there are 10 sermons on the subject “What is the Grace Gospel?” While you are there, check “Ray’s Theology.” You might want to ask him which specific sections are more relevant to this subject.]

One more thing—The Bible speaks of the believer’s Standing and the believer’s state. “Our Standing” is perfect and guaranteed to stay that way because it is based on Jesus’ work on the cross in our place. Chapter 5 deals with our standing. “Our State” is imperfect, changeable and is largely dependent on us. Chapter 6 deals with “Our State”.

I. How God Has Lifted Us – 5:1–5

We were is a low state and needed to be lifted.

A. As to Our Standing – 5:1–2

1. We Have Acceptance – 5:1

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

“Having been justified” - Literally - “since we have been justified by faith. Justified means that we have been declared righteous by God on the basis of Jesus’ having died in our place on the cross and our having believed on Him.

“we have peace with God.” - The hostility has ceased. The price of our peace has been paid and we have accepted that payment as ours. The war is over. God gave the terms; “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” We now have a perfect standing before God.

2. We Have Access – 5:2

“through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

We now have free access to our holy God. In the O.T. the people had no access to God. There was a curtain hiding the ark “where God dwelt” from the priest and people. The High Priest went in, representing the people, once a year on the “Day of Atonement,” not without blood. (Hebrews 9:8)

We, on the other hand, are told to come boldly, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

B. As to Our State – 5:3-5

1. How Maturity is Displayed by Us – 5:3a

“And not only *that,* but we also glory in tribulations,”

When tribulations come, we can accept them as opportunities to depend on the grace of God and to display our confidence in God’s will.

2. How Maturity is Developed in Us – 5:3b–5a

“knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint,”

Knowing God’s purpose in tribulation is to develop Christian character in us, helps us to allow tribulation to do its work. Paul is speaking from experience and is still experiencing the process.

“Each victory will help you in some other (victory) to win.” (H.R. Palmer) “Yield Not to Temptations”

3. How Maturity is Determined for Us – 5:5b

“because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

What we could never do in our own strength, is now made possible by love from God in our hearts and the power of the Holy Spirit which will empower us to imitate that love in our everyday walk with the Lord and His people whom He has given us for the journey.

II. How God has Loved Us – 5:6–11

A. The Proof of God’s Love – 5:6–8

1. It is Unconditional Love – 5:6

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

The extent of love may be determined by its gifts,

1. God loved the world – He gave His Son (John 3:16)

2. Christ loved the church – He gave Himself (Eph. 5:25)

3. God loved me – He gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20)

4. If we love God – we should give ourselves to Him.

* Keep His Commandments and Remain in His love – John 15:10
* Do not love the world (1 John 2:15)
* Practice Unrighteousness 3:7
* Love our brothers *and sisters* (1John 2:11)
* Lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters (I John 3:17)
* Help our brothers and sisters in need (1 John 3:17)

God’s love is unconditional – our love should be the same.

2. It is Incomparable Love – 5:7–8

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

It is not likely that someone would die for a righteous man. Someone might die for a good man. But in contrast to that: while we were not righteous, or good; to the contrary, we were sinners and enemies of God. And at that point, Christ died for us.

In Matthew 9:13 Jesus said, “…I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

We deserved -- death not life: Wrath not forgiveness; Hell, not heaven; Hate not love. At that point – Christ died for us! To make those things and many more possible for us.

AT NO COST TO US FREE-FREE-FREE

There is nothing on earth OR IN HEAVEN to compare with that love – It is incomparable.

B. The Provision of God’s Love – 5:9–10

1. Christ Gave His Life *for* Us – 5:9–10a

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

If our justification is true (and it is) then we are no longer guilty of any sin against God’s righteousness. So the wrath due for that sin will not be levied against us. We have peace with God.

“For if {since} when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,”

We were indeed reconciled to God. Remember the three accomplishments of the atonement?

* Sinward – Redemption-payment of the price. Rom 5
* Manward - Reconciliation – bring man back to God from Whom he had strayed.
* Godward – Propitiation – satisfaction – I John 2

2. Christ Gives His Life *to* Us – 5:10b

“much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Much more. We are saved from the penalty of sin. But much more: We are saved from the power of sin. And from the presence of sin.

C. The Products of God’s Love – 5:11

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

We naturally rejoice in Jesus Who died in our place. But that leads us back to God the Father Who gave His Son. He loved us so much that He gave his unique Son – the only one of a kind Son.

The Holy Spirit ministered to the Son during His time on the earth, enabling Him to complete His mission of mercy in our behalf. So we sing: Praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And we will continue to do so throughout eternity.

Conclusion: