

“Anguish for God’s Glory”

Romans 9:1-5

January 2, 2022

I. Retracing Our Steps Through Romans (Romans 1-8)

A. Paul had been called to proclaim God’s gospel, i.e., God’s good news.

B. God’s good news begins with some necessary bad news:

1. Humanity stands condemned before the Lord due to their sinful lack of righteousness.
2. This is true of everyone, Jew or non-Jew (Gentile).

Romans 3:10–12 - ¹⁰ as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹ There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.”

C. Thankfully God has provided a righteousness, the righteousness of Jesus.

1. This righteousness from God is available to all who believe.
2. Belief in Christ brings justification -- eternal pardon and an eternally righteous standing.

Romans 3:21–26 - ²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

3. The incredible gift of Christ’s righteousness is received by faith only.

Romans 4:5 - But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness.

4. God has always planned to save sinners – Jew or Gentile – through faith alone.

Romans 4:9–11 - ⁹ Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “Faith was credited to Abraham as righteousness.” ¹⁰ How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; ¹¹ and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them.

D. Believers now have peace with God, a restored relationship with Him.

Romans 5:1–2 - ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

- E. Our restored relationship with God cannot be shaken by our remaining faults because of the ongoing righteousness of Jesus.

Romans 5:9–10 - ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while 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.

1. As for our sin, we are dead to it. It cannot enslave us anymore. (Rom. 6)
2. Jesus will one day fully deliver us from our remaining faults. (Rom. 7)
3. Until then we have the Holy Spirit to enliven and strengthen us. (Rom 8)

- F. Our final salvation destiny is ultimately secured by the fact that God freely chose us for salvation before the world began.

Romans 8:30 - and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

- G. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Romans 8:38–39 - ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- H. No wonder Paul proclaimed the following about God's good news:

Romans 1:16 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

II. But what about the Jews? (Romans 9-11)

- A. Why had most of them been left outside of Christ? Had something gone wrong?
- B. What plans did God have for them in the future?
- C. Such questions are the focus of Rom. 9-11.

III. Paul's present lament over unbelieving Israel (Rom. 9:1-5)

- A. Paul was in turmoil over Israel's lost state.
- B. Paul's anguish was not due so much to a worldly patriotism, but to a desire for God to be glorified in Israel's salvation, particularly after all He'd done for them.