

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART II

Sermon Title: Week 1, Standing in Grace

Principal Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Date: July 22, 2018

† Built up in Christ!

- **TODAY starting PART II in Romans! The MUCH MORE of Life. When we started we found Paul writing the church in Rome with the hope of traveling to actually visit them- he did this, but as a prisoner. NOW, under house arrest, he wrote several letters...**

Colossians 2:6-8 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*

- **THIS charge Paul gave the early church in Colossae is also the reason he wrote the Romans. Paul wrote so that this early group of believers- AND US TODAY- may BE BUILT UP IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. Strengthened in your FAITH. Understand the importance and TRUTH of what we believe, so that we won't be deceived- live in spirit of gratitude- and truly EXPERIENCE, as the ongoing source of our lives, the NEW LIFE that we receive through FAITH.**
- **We've been taking our time- need to really understand the magnitude of the Truth Paul has been laying out... change the way we think, the way we see our lives, who God is.... THINK for a moment... if we really grasp the magnitude of our brokenness before God, and the greater magnitude of his forgiveness, redemption, justification of us... ONLY IN RESPONSE TO OUR FAITH... what will be our posture before him? GRATITUDE! ON OUR KNEES!**
- **BUT NOW!!!! NOW as we move into chapter 5, you can see God calling us to KNOW what he has done- how much he loves us, taking us by the hands, and causing us to STAND.**

† A Time to Stand

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

- **"keep on having".. peace with God**
- **Nasb "We- LET US (keep on) EXULT in hope of Glory of God."**
- **STAND... powerful word... Greek word also translated... abide, continue, covenant, establish, hold up.**
- **CAN'T MISS SIGNIFICANCE HERE! In life, if we STAND, there is some resource, by definition, in which we stand. Something that is our foundation, our source of strength. NOW, in the natural human condition, that source of strength is OURSELF, or the strength of other people around us. BUT UP TO THIS POINT, GOD HAS SHOWN THAT OF OURSELVES, WE HAVE NO STRENGTH TO STAND.**
- **AND SO... in our own weakness, our total inability to stand before God on our own... GOD HAS JUSTIFIED US, GIVEN US PEACE WITH HIM, so that we may stand... BY GRACE. As Paul wrote in 2 Cor 12.. "When I (recognize that I) am weak, then I am strong"**
- **Friends, with this phrase.. GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND, Paul turns the key to open the rest of this book, because everything else from here is all about the CONCEPT, the MIRACLE, of GRACE.. in which we live, prevail, grow in freedom from sin, fear, bondage.. deal with adversity, maintain hope if face of grief and loss, experience joy, love... STAND... ITS ALL BY GRACE.**

- Paul continues his thought here with **FOUR** huge concepts of how we **STAND** in reality of life...

† Standing in **ADVERSITY**

- “we exult in hope of the glory of God”....

Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also glory (**exult, same word**) in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

- The idea of God using suffering to grow us is **HUGE** topic... just few thoughts:
 - “Exult in sufferings”... God doesn’t want us to be masochists... this isn’t celebrating what we are suffering, but rather ‘exult’- great praise- of what God can do through our suffering.
 - When Paul wrote about sufferings, he was primarily referring to the suffering and persecution Christians would experience because of their faith in Christ. **CLEAR-** there is so much suffering in our world- much coming from hatred, abuse... or suffering from disease, poverty, many other things.
- **GOD IS NOT SAYING THAT THESE ARE GOOD... NO..** but even in the greatest of suffering, over time, God in his Grace has the power to bring healing and redemption- to grow perseverance, strengthen character...but most of all, to **GROW** us to see- and experience- the reality of **HOPE**.
- **WE STAND IN HOPE... and the source of our HOPE is LOVE...**

† Standing in the Hope of **LOVE**

Romans 5:5-8 And hope does not put us to shame (**God’s hope will not let us down**), because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

- ? **How do we know God loves us? Life is hard, unfair!**

⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- **THIS IS THE GOSPEL!** We can’t grasp the full magnitude of this truth. Nothing in our human experience- no depth of kindness, generosity, or sacrifice- as powerful as these may be- even comes close.
- **BUT,** often, we don’t even try... the historical reality of the crucifixion of Jesus, and the spiritual reality of **WHO HE IS, WHAT THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED,** we almost take for granted... **I DO THIS!**
- **THIS IS WHERE WE MUST CHANGE THE WAY WE THINK.** In Romans 12, “Not pattern or this world... Be transformed by the renewing of your mind”...
- **PATTERN** of this world is that we are addicted to evaluating life by our circumstances.
 - Does God love me? Circumstances...
 - How do I look at, relate to, people around me? How have they treated me?
 - How do I feel about myself? What has life taught me, what do others say to me... pride or shame
 - Am I content, joy, peace? Circumstances!!
 - **WE SEE LIFE THROUGH THE LENS**
- **CHURCH!!! BY FAITH,** we must change the way we think, we see, so that we **SEE** ourselves, other people, life, God himself... according to what **HE SAYS. WHILE YOU WERE STILL BROKEN, SINNER, SEPARATED, POWERLESS... CHRIST DIED... HE LOVES YOU!** YOU HAVE SIGNIFICANCE. YOU CAN LAY DOWN THE ENDLESS performance, guilt,

- shame, pride. **IT IS WELL...** “Though satan should buffet... trials should come... blessed assurance... helpless estate, shed his own blood for my soul
- **WHEN I WAS STILL... CHRIST DIED FOR ME-** and for my wife, my boss, my friends, my enemies... for all
 - **Having made this proclamation, Paul begins to use a new phrase multiple times... a phrase that describes the fullness of the NEW LIFE that God calls us into, through our relationship with him... MUCH MORE**
 - **You’ve been justified... THERE IS MORE! HOW MUCH MORE???** Let me tell you...

How Much More!

† **Standing as the RECONCILED**

Romans 5:9-10a *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son...*

- **Justified... legal term- justice has been done in the case of our sin. Paul says HOW MUCH MORE, shall we be saved, pardoned, delivered from God’s wrath against sin. In other words, we can barely grasp...the magnitude of what it means that we are not under God’s wrath.... PAUL SAYS, “Let me try to explain...”**
 - **WHILE WE WERE ENEMIES... because of cross... WE WERE RECONCILED TO HIM...**
 - **Justification is legal satisfaction**
 - **Reconciliation is RELATIONAL RESTORATION**
- Colossians 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you **holy in his sight**, without blemish and free from accusation—
- **Believer... “I am holy in God’s sight... “**
 - **THIS IS GOOD NEWS.. relationally restored to God.. but Paul isn’t done. THERE IS MORE-MUCH MORE**
 - **We stand in adversity. We stand in hope. We stand because we’ve been reconciled/restored... WE STAND BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN JOINED WITH CHRIST IN HIS LIFE.**

† **Standing in LIFE**

¹⁰ For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son...

Romans 5:10b-11 *...how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

- **HOW MUCH MORE shall we be saved through HIS life. HEAR! Christian life isn’t just about being forgiven. IT IS ABOUT BECOMING A NEW PERSON, because IN CHRIST, we have been made a new person.**
- **IN our relationship with Christ- participation in HIS LIFE... we ARE BEING SAVED...**
 - **From the wounds and pain of our past (pride?)**
 - **From the fear and struggles of our present**
 - **From complacency, from discontent, selfishness**
 - **WE ARE BEING SET FREE**
- **IN CHRIST, We have entered the MUCH MORE of LIFE. Theme we will be unpacking... TRUTH OF GOD’S GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND.**

– **End with a story... the man who stood up.**

Postscript... The man who stood up *Luke 5:17-26*

^{Luke 5:22} Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?
²³ Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ²⁴ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” ²⁵ Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. ²⁶ Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God.

Where is God raising you to your feet, to stand?