

Saved from God's Wrath
Romans 5:6-11

Slide 1

Today is Palm Sunday. This is the day Christians all over the world observe Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:9 tell us that, *"The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

They were welcoming Jesus as a king, but people are fickle. By Friday, less than 5 days later, many of the same people were crying out *"Crucify him! Crucify him!"*

And we're no different. The Bible paints a dim view of every individual before they come to Christ. The fact is, and contrary to popular belief, people are not basically good.

We compare ourselves to others by saying, *"At least I'm not a bad as so and so."* But what we don't realize... is just how high and holy God is.

If we were to make a comparison between the most foul, unrepentant axe murderer on death row, and place him on one side of this stage and place a good, righteous man like Billy Graham on the other side.

You'd probably agree that most of us would fall somewhere in between? But, where do we place the holiness and goodness of God?

God wouldn't just be on the other side of Billy Graham; He'd be out of the room.

We'd have to place His holiness outside of the city, out of the country, and across the ocean in comparison.

That makes the difference between us and the axe murderer insignificant when compared to the holiness of God.

Compared to the holiness of God, there's not much difference between us and that murderer on death row. We both deserve condemnation.

My best before God doesn't rate. Isaiah 64:6a, *"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."*

According to Isaiah, we're deserving of death, deserving of God's wrath, just like that murderer on death row.

That's why, as a rebellious sinner, we're subject to the judgment and wrath of God. Romans 6:23a, *"For the wages of sin is death."*

This is the reason Jesus' substitutionary death on that Roman cross makes our reconciliation to God possible. Unfortunately, we tend to forget this.

Slide 2

"Jesus died for my sins" has become a standard Sunday School phrase that we tend to take granted. We gloss over what Jesus did for us on the cross.

That's why Paul had to remind us just how weak and ungodly we were. Romans 5:6, *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly."*

This word, *"Powerless,"* that Paul uses here, means that we have no power to save ourselves from the wrath that's to come.

We can't escape His wrath. We have no ability to make our life right with God. We're ungodly.

We have no virtue that God desires; no excellence to commend us to God. There's nothing in us that would make God owe us a pardon.

But when the time was right, when the "*time had fully come,*" Jesus died for us. Galatians 4:4, "*But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.*"

This happened just at the right time in history; there was no other time like it, before or since. This was no accident. Jesus came at just the right time.

Born in humble means, He lived and taught about the Kingdom of God; then He went... to the cross for us.

But Jesus didn't just die, Romans 5:6 tells us that He died, "*for the ungodly.*"

Let's do a quick word study of that Greek word "*for.*" This word means "on behalf of" or in the context of Romans 5:6, it means "*in the place of.*" Jesus died in our place.

He died when it should have been us on that cross because our sins offended a high and holy God.

Now, there are good men here on earth who earn our respect, but I wouldn't want to die for a man I merely respected. A good man is a man I would love.

My father was a good man. I loved my father because he was a good man, but would I consider dying for a man like my father, just because he was good.

So, how do we rate with Jesus? Romans 5:8, *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

God showed how much He loved us. Not because we were righteous or good, but *“While we were still sinners.”* While we were rebellious, while we were haters of God, He still loved us.

He loved us so much that verse 8 tells us that Jesus, His only Son, died *“For”* us; *“in the place of”* us.

Jesus died in our place while we were His enemies, while we were rebellious and haters of God. And why did He die for us... *“For God so loved the world...”* John 3:16.

There is no way that we can grasp the amazing love, the amazing grace, that God has for us.

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But, as we look at the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, we can see exactly what it did for us.

In Romans 5:9-11, there are two key words that we need to understand. The words are *“justified”* and *“reconciled.”*

These words are vital to understanding our salvation. To be *“justified,”* or in some translations, “declared righteous,” is the judicial or legal portion of our salvation.

Reconciliation is the relational side of our salvation. By being *“reconciled”* to God, we now have direct access and enjoy fellowship with Him.

Romans 5:9 explains how we were justified when Jesus was crucified. *“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”*

The shedding of blood has long been the payment for the redemption of sin. Leviticus 17:11, *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”*

That word "atonement" speaks volumes. 1 John 4:10, *“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”*

Jesus is the propitiation, the *“atoning sacrifice,”* for our sins. Propitiation is a sacrifice that satisfies the wrath of God. Jesus took the full brunt of the wrath of God in our place.

This same Jesus who knew no sin, became sin for us! 2 Corinthians 5:21, *“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

So, what are we saved from? Romans 5:9b, *“Shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him.”* We don’t have God’s wrath in our future. We were saved from God’s wrath!

But that’s not all. Look at Romans 5:10, *“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!”*

At one time, we were enemies but now we have a relationship with the Creator of the universe. We’ve been reconciled to God.

We're no longer viewed as guilty, rebellious, and condemned sinners. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*

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Now let's look at that second important word found in Romans 5:9-11, *"reconciled."*

We're reconciled by Jesus' death on the cross. Romans 5:10, *"we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son.."*

But wait, there's more to this verse: *"how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"*

Save by His life? What you have to understand in this verse is that Paul's not talking about Jesus' life here on earth prior to His crucifixion.

He's talking about Jesus' life right now, as He sits at the right hand of the Father.

If Jesus had the power, through His death, to cleanse our sins and to justify us before God, how much more power does He have in His current life in the presence of God?

And talking about being in the presence of God, what does Jesus do while He's setting at His right hand? I'll tell you what He does... He's our advocate, our defense lawyer.

1 John 2:1–2, *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."*

But why do we need a defense lawyer, an Advocate. Aren't we saved? Didn't His blood make us whiter than snow?

Yes... it did, but Revelation 12:10b tells us that Satan accuses us before God day and night; *“For the accuser...accuses them before our God day and night.”*

Therefore, as our Advocate, Jesus defends us by saying He’s already paid the price as the propitiation for our sins.

Hebrews 7:25, *“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”*

That’s what Jesus is doing right now, defending those who belong to Him. I have a relationship with Almighty God through Jesus Christ.

As Paul wrote at the beginning of Romans 5, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Sin brings estrangement, alienation, and enmity between man and God. Jesus’ sacrificial and substitutional death on the cross changed all that.

Slide 5

Conclusion

This is why Easter is a time of great rejoicing. We’ve been made right with God. We can experience fellowship with Him.

Reconciliation didn’t just happen, it’s a gift we received. There’s nothing we could do for it. It’s all Jesus. It’s all about what He did for us.

Remember, at the beginning of this message I quoted the first few words of Romans 6:23.

Let me finish it. Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

There’s nothing we could do about our condition. God did it all. We couldn’t go to Him, so He sent Jesus to us. And Jesus paid it all. Now all to Him we owe.

God’s call for us, through Jesus Christ, is clear. We’ve been saved from God’s wrath, but we’ve also been saved to become more like Him. That’s called sanctification. He has called us to holiness.

We can’t call ourselves saved and still live like the rest of the world. A changed life, a life that’s moving towards holiness is the best indicator that we’ve been saved.

That’s why we need to be thankful for what Jesus has done for us.