

A NEW BEGINNING
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December 10, 2017

Romans 5:1-11

1. Have you ever wished that you could have a do over, a chance to experience a new beginning?
2. Louisa Fletcher Tarkington expressed her desire in a poem titled, "The Land of Beginning Again."
3. The first and last verses read as follows:
 "I wish there were some wonderful place call the Land of Beginning Again,
 Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches, and all our poor, selfish griefs
 Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, at the door, and never put on again."
4. Well, there is no such land, but there is a place, and it's called Calvary.
5. There, upon the Cross of Calvary, Jesus suffered, shed His blood, and died so that you and I can begin again. 2 Cor 5:17-19
 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.
6. Through faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice we are declared righteous and reconciled to God.
7. Furthermore, we are regenerated, or born again, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, to indwell and empower us.
8. Here our life enters into a new phase referred to as sanctification or transformation. NOTE: A recent entry in my journal reads, "Transformation follows justification as surely as day follows the dawn. What God begins He continues and eventually completes. Tozer declared, 'When God declares a man righteous He instantly sets about to make him righteous.'"
9. Notice some realities related to our redeemed lives that Paul emphasizes in the passage we just read.

I. A present reality. 1.

- A. Last week we focused on Romans 4:5 which reads, "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies (by His atoning sacrifice) the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness."
- B. Notice that the Bible does not say that we are being justified, or that we will eventually be justified, rather it states that we have been (a completed act) justified by faith.
- C. Since we have been justified by faith we now, as a present reality, have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Peace with God means that God has nothing against us judicially, and now deals with us as sons and daughters rather than sinners. Heb 12:7-8

It is for discipline that you endure; **God deals with you as with sons**; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

2. This peace with God is not to be confused with the peace of God.
3. Every true believer is at peace with God because of Christ's shed blood, but not every believer has the peace of God within him. Philippians 4:4-7

II. A positional reality. 2

A. Apart from Jesus Christ every human being is deemed ungodly, and the wrath of God abides on him.

1. John 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

2. 1 John 5:12

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

B. In Jesus Christ we are credited with the righteousness of Christ and now abide in a state of grace in which and by which we stand.

1. We are in grace.
2. We are recipients of grace. 17

III. A promised reality. 2

A. In Christ we have the assurance of one day entering His presence and experiencing His glory.

B. This prospect is a source of exultation, joy and expectation.

IV. A personal reality. 3-4

A. Once we have been reconciled to God He begins to conform us to the image of His Son.

B. This is accomplished partly through difficulties and discipline.

C. Paul understood the reality and thus exalted in the process.

1. Acts 14:21-23

After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, **"Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."**

2. 2 Tim 3:10-13

Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! 12 **Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.**

NOTE: Sadly not many modern day believers actually desire to live godly in Christ Jesus.

- D. The writer of Hebrews made this truth abundantly clear. Heb 12:4-11
You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; 5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; 6 FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES." 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.
- E. As did James in James 1:2-4.
Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

V. A powerful reality. 5

- A. The very love that God has manifested towards us will be manifested in and through our lives through the Holy Spirit Who is given, as an indwelling and enabling gift, to every genuine child of God.
- B. Think about God's love towards us.
- NOTE: In 4:5 we are the ungodly, in 5:6 we are helpless, in 5:8 we are yet sinners, and in 5:9 we are under the wrath of God. Yet, because of the redemptive love of God, and in response to our repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are declared righteous, we are born again by the power of God, we are indwelt with the Spirit of God, and we are enabled by God to love Him and to be instruments of His love.

APPLICATION

1. Our God is the God of "much more." See verses 9, 10, 15, and 17.
2. How about us?
3. Are our lives characterized by a desire for much more from a spiritual perspective?
4. I am thankful for all that God has done and is doing in and through my life, but I am asking God to do much more in me that He might do much more through me.