

Salvation Is Big

Romans 5:6-11

Today we continue our three-week series entitled *Salvation 101*. What is salvation, and why is it essential to understanding life?

"When were you saved?"

- There are multiple correct answers: the date of my conversion, or Jesus' death...
 - And how about this question: "When *will* you be saved?" (Hebrews 9:28; see also Romans 5:9-10)
- Salvation is Big: past, present, future!

Let's look at one paragraph that summarizes our big salvation beautifully: Romans 5:6-11.

(1) Who are we? **Sinners** and **Saints**

- Sinners: "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (5:8)
 - Also: "we were enemies [of God]" (5:10)
- Saints: "Since we have now been justified [declared righteous] by his blood..." (5:9)
- *Summary: sinners become saints. But how? Not through moral or religious improvement, but through the death of Christ.*

(2) What is God like? The **Love** of God and the **Wrath** of God

- Love of God: "God shows his love for us in that... Christ died for us." (5:8)

- Wrath of God: "...how much more shall we be saved by him [Christ] from the wrath of God." (5:9)
- *Summary: in Christ's death, the love of God saves us from the just wrath of God.*

(3) How is Christ our salvation? The **Death** of Christ and the **Life** of Christ

- Death of Christ: "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son..." (5:10a)
- Life of Christ: "...much more now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." (5:10b)
- *Summary: Christ's death reconciled us to God, but Christ is alive and can therefore save us in every way.*
 - For instance: In the future the living Christ will save us from death, from our enemies, from ourselves, etc.

To the Lord's Supper

Questions for Reflection and Application (Romans 5:6-11)

1. If you don't believe in the wrath of God, can you make sense of the salvation as Paul is teaching it here?
 - a. Is the wrath of God an *imperfection* in God? (Consider Romans 1:18-19.)
2. Where specifically is the love of God demonstrated according to this passage?
3. How are we saved – and how *will* we be saved -- through the ongoing life of Christ? (5:10b) List the ways and any relevant Bible verses that come to mind.
4. How does understanding salvation in this paragraph affect the way you live today?