

## **THE MEASURE OF GOD'S LOVE**

*Living in the Presence of God #3*

Sunday, April 25, 2021

### **GETTING STARTED: A Review**

#### **ROMANS: The Reality of Living in God's Presence**

Romans 1:15 (NASB) *So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome [Paul is going to spend the rest of the letter spelling out the gospel and its implications].* <sup>16</sup> *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.* <sup>17</sup> *For in it the righteousness of God [the Father] is revealed from faith [initial trust] to faith [daily trust]; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."*

Romans 1:18-32 = Humanity has failed and God has turned people over to what's inside them (their moods and desires)

Romans 2:1-16 = The moralist – who says that he or she is not like the individual in Romans 1 because they have a moral standard – has failed. They have failed because they don't even live up to the moral code they espouse.

Romans 2:17-3:8 = The individual who trusts in religion (specifically the Jews) has also failed because even with all the promises of God and His resources ... they have turned it into mere "rule-keeping."

The Conclusion = Romans 3:9 (NASB) *What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;* <sup>10</sup> *as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;* <sup>11</sup> *THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;* <sup>12</sup> *ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."* <sup>13</sup> *"THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";*

The Contrast: Romans 3:19 (NASB) *Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God [the Father];* <sup>20</sup> *because by the works of the Law [doing good deeds, obeying the 10 commandments, trying to earn acceptance by being good] no flesh will be justified [declared righteous, in a right relationship with a right standing before God the Father] in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*

Romans 3:21 (NASB) But now *apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,* <sup>22</sup> *even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;* <sup>23</sup> *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

The Core Values of Christianity = Romans 3:24 (NASB) ... *being [continually] justified as a gift by His [the Father] grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;* <sup>25</sup> *whom God [the Father] displayed publicly as a propitiation [satisfaction] in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His [God the Father] righteousness, because in the forbearance of God [the Father] He passed over the sins previously committed;* <sup>26</sup> *for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He [the Father] would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.* <sup>27</sup> *Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.* <sup>28</sup> *For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.* <sup>29</sup> *Or is God the God of Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also,* <sup>30</sup> *since indeed God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith is one.*

Romans 4 = Illustrations from the life of Abraham and the life of David of faith making one acceptable to God.

### **GOD'S LOVE & ACCEPTANCE IN RELATION TO TIME.**

Romans 5:1a (NASB) *Therefore, having [then] been justified by faith...*

1. IN THE PAST: I am in a RIGHT relationship with God.

Romans 3:23 (NLT) *“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. <sup>24</sup> Yet now God in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. <sup>25</sup> For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God’s anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing His life for us.”*

Romans 5:1b (NASB) *“... we [are continually having] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...*

2. IN THE PRESENT:

a. I have PEACE with God.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV) *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

b. I have permanent ACCESS to God the Father.

Romans 5:2a ... *through whom also we have [permanent access] obtained our introduction by faith into this [favor] grace in which we [permanently] stand...*”

3. FOR THE FUTURE: I can BOAST about sharing God’s glory.

Romans 5:2b “... *and we [are continually boasting] exult [over] in the hope of the [splendor] glory of God.*”

Romans 2:17 (NASB) *But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God ...<sup>22</sup> You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?*

## **GOD'S LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE IN RELATIONSHIP TO PROBLEMS.**

Romans 5:3 (NASB) *And not only this, but we also [are continually boasting] exult in our [particular] tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance [produces the ability to sustain pressure];<sup>4</sup> and perseverance [the ability sustain pressure produces approved], proven character; and proven character [produces], hope;<sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint [shame us], because the love of God has been poured out [in the past with a present effect] within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

The Jew boasted or gloried in the law (2:17); our glory is our PROBLEMS.

Romans 8:28 (NASB) *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good [beneficially] to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

James 1:2 (NASB), *“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,<sup>2</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”*

Romans 8:32 (NIV) *“He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?”*

## **ENJOYING THE FULL MEASURE OF GOD'S LOVE.**

### **1. God invites us to PARTICIPATE in the relationship that exists between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”* John 15:9 (NIV)

*“He [the Father] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God [the Father] in Him [Christ].”*<sup>2</sup> Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

### **2. When I have problems conceiving that God loves me, don't look inside or at the circumstances ... look at the CROSS!**

Romans 5:8 (NASB) *But God demonstrates [commends, recommends] His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners [in the very act of sinning], Christ died for us.*

## **ACTIONS STEPS:**

1. Commit this week to spend some time thinking about how God has loved you in the past and in the present. Think about what His love might feel like and look like in the future.
2. Commit this week to take your problems and say [even write it on a 3x5 card or put in your phone]: *“These problems do not define God’s love for me. The Cross defines His love.”*