**The Book of Romans**

Part Three: God’s righteousness is revealed in His free gift of Spirit-life. (Romans 5–8)

***New Life: A New Perspective Set Free from God’s Wrath Romans 5:1-11***

Those who like to use the term “once saved always saved” often overlook the reality that if there is a “once” then there is an “always” set of new realities. Justification, our being made right with God, does not occur in some spiritual vacuum, nor is it isolated from the rest of our lives, as if saving us from hell was God’s sole purpose. Rather, having made us right with Himself through the Cross, He continues and amp-lifies and builds upon that one time work to create new life within us via His Spirit. Chapters five through eight help us see more clearly the hope filled liberty of one who is truly born from above and forgiven his sins: freedom from God’s wrath, from sin, from the Law, and from death.

***(Since we have been made right with God, [1:18–4:25] life now is one of joyful hope, expecting and enjoying God’s promises. . .)***

***✔ We have peace with God through Jesus.*** v. 1

What characterizes the converted heart? First, the fear of God’s judgment is replaced by peace, not a subjective “inner peace” but a realization that God’s claims against your sins are gone. Naturally, subjective peace follows. Isaiah 9:6, 7; Luke 2:14

***✔ We have access to God through Jesus.*** v. 2a

Peace with God is not a fantasy, but a reality. Hebrews 9:24-26

***✔ We have a new platform for “boasting,” rejoicing in transformation -- even through suffering.*** vv. 2b-5

The word “rejoice” in vv. 2, 3, 11 can also be translated “boast,” as in Romans 2:17, 23; 4:2 (referring to boasting in the Law and good works). Now, our joy-filled boast is not in ourselves but in God and His process of perfecting us through suffering as He did with His Son. This is our “hope,” confidence that God loves us and will keep His word in doing good for us for His glory. Hebrews 2:9-11; Romans 8:16-19

***✔ The boast (joy) is solid, founded in grace!*** vv. 6-8

Here is the reasoning behind the boast: if we can relate to someone sacrificing his life for a good person, how much more can we appreciate Jesus’ sacrifice for us when we were sinners, weak and ungodly? This is the kind of love God has shown: inexhaustible, persistent, faithful, and effective. In this love we boast. 1 John 4:10

***✔ Instead of fearing God’s wrath, we rejoice in His presence through Jesus.*** vv. 9-11

If, as sinners, God sent His Son to die for us, now that we are reconciled to Him, we can be sure of our final salvation because of His resurrection. 2 Corinthians 4:10, 11

**Applying God’s Truth to Life**

*What difference does the New Perspective make?*

***1. We brag about God:*** *We have been won by His love.*

The root of sin is in not giving glory to God. The believer has become a true God-worshiper, having been accepted by Him through Jesus. If you are Christ’s you see that all self-confidence is a fail, and only confidence in God will overcome sin and a fallen world. You gladly acknowledge His power, love, grace, and glory. Philippians 3:1-11

***2. We get suffering:*** *We see it as more than a distracting discomfort.*

No suffering is pleasant, but it can be welcomed and embraced when we realize that far from God’s punishment, it is His means of con-forming us to the image of Jesus, who traveled the same path for us. Pain, frustration, loneliness, heartache, fighting sin, and longing, all are examples of suffering that Jesus experienced as do we. James 1:2-12