

**QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION  
& SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION  
FOR FEBRUARY 19 THRU 25, 2023**

—Here are some quotations that are intended to provoke some initial discussion about what's being presented in this study.

—“Our justification is not simply a guarantee of heaven, as thrilling as that is, but it's also the source of tremendous blessings (and benefits) we enjoy here and now!” —**Warren W. Wiersbe**

—“I believe in the security of the believer and I also believe in the insecurity of the make-believer. —**J. Vernon McGee**

—“Your salvation depends on what Christ has done for you, not on what you do for Him. It isn't your hold on God that saves you. It's His hold on you.” —**Billy Graham**

—“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and finally recognize that the prisoner was you.” —*quoted by many Bible teachers*

—“Nothing in the Christian life is more important than forgiveness: God's forgiveness of us and our forgiveness of others.” —**John MacArthur**

—“If God is able to forget your past, why can't you? When you confess your sins and ask forgiveness of them, God throws your sins into the depths of the sea, and then puts up a sign on the shore that reads, 'No swimming.'” —**Erwin W. Lutzer**

—“for I know Whom I have trusted and I am absolutely convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.” —**2 Timothy 1:12b**

—“Justification is... a completed fact for the believer; it is not an ongoing process.” —**John MacArthur**

—“Perseverance attests to God's approval, for it gives evidence of eternal life (salvation). In other words, perseverance does not result in salvation and eternal life, but is itself the result and evidence of salvation and eternal life.” —**John MacArthur**

—“Any suggestion that a faithful follower of Christ can lose the salvation from God's wrath toward sin that God has freely and graciously provided through Christ is an insult to God.” —**GAD**

—**1 John 1:5--2:2**

**1:5** This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. **6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. **2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

—**1 Peter 1:3-5**

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

—Please carefully observe **Romans 5:1-11** and list the main ideas and key words you notice in the passage.

—**Romans 5:1-5** (Emphasizing the idea that “those who are justified by faith have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”)

—**Romans 5:5–8** (Expressing the truth that “God proved His love by sending Jesus Christ to die in our place.”)

—**Romans 5:8–11** (Extending the understanding that “we’ve been rescued from God’s wrath in two distinct ways.”)

—*After carefully observing Romans 5:1–11, what are some personal thoughts that come to your mind about:*

—*How can I be confident that my faith is enough to rescue me from the penalty and punishment for sin?*

—*Is salvation something that can be lost? —in contrast to the question asking— Is salvation something that cannot be lost?*

—*Why is it necessary for me to discern whether my salvation is determined in any way by my ability to maintain a certain standard of behavior? How is this idea deceptive and destructive to the Gospel?*

—*In Romans 5:1–11, there are seven benefits and blessings list that result from or relate to being justified by grace through faith in Christ. They are:*

—**1)** *We have **PEACE** with God rather than a hostile relationship.*

—**2)** *We have **ACCESS** to God because we’re **STANDING** in His **GRACE**!*

—**3)** *We can **REJOICE** in **HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION** of **GLORY**!*

—**4)** *We’ve been given the Holy Spirit as God’s **GUARANTEE** that Heaven is in our future!*

—**5)** *God’s **LOVE** has been poured into our hearts, even though we don’t deserve it!*

—**6)** *We’ll also be **RESCUED** from the God’s wrath that’s coming during the Tribulation.*

—**7)** *We can rejoice at the **REALITY OF RECONCILIATION** with God!*

—*How or why are each of these benefits and blessings practical to our daily lives?*

—**Here are some additional questions related to the sermon notes and life lessons from this study that might promote or provoke discussion:**

—**1}** *Being forgiven by God is a GIFT that God intends to become contagious. What personal thoughts do you have about the importance of forgiveness?*

—**2—** *Some argue that while we were sinners before conversion, now we should not view ourselves as sinners, but only as saints. What does Romans teach us about that?*

—**3—** *How does any form of works salvation undermine a person’s relationship with the Lord? How does it take away from the reality of God’s amazing love in Christ?*

—**4—** *Why is it important to include telling about God’s love, God’s grace, and God’s wrath when explaining the Gospel to someone?*

—**5—** *Why is it important that believers feel assured of their salvation? What practical benefits come from this assurance?*

—**6—** *Since false assurance is a real possibility, how can we guard ourselves from it? What is the basis for true assurance?*

—**7—** *Should we try to give assurance to a person who professes to trust in Christ, but who is living in disobedience? What are the biblical guidelines you might suggest?*