Christmas: The Most Worshipful Time of the Year

Celebrating the Lord's Arrival to Save Us From Sin

Reviewing Our Life Assurance Policy:

Jesus Paid The Premium In Full

Romans 5:1–11 with other supporting biblical truths

—Introducing today's message: The Lord's Supper (often identified by people as "Communion") is a powerful reminder that we have the most effective life assurance policy that ever been offered. Today we'll be looking at what Romans 5:1–11 teaches us about what our Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished for all who have faithfully placed their total trust in Him as Lord & Savior.

Here are some relevant statements by well–known Christian leaders:

"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**

"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**

"If God is able to forget your past, why can't you? When you confess your sins and ask forgiveness for 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

"It's easy today to approach Sunday worship, even the Lord's Supper celebration, as just another event of the week. When we do, we hardly worship at all. We may go through the motions, but our hearts are somewhere else. Paul rebuked the Corinthians (& us as well) for that kind of approach to worship." **—David Jeremiah**

"The Lord's Supper is an opportunity for a public profession of our faith. It's also a time for Christians to reflect on the once-for-all-time sacrifice made by Christ." **—Alistair Begg**

—Observing what Romans 5:1–11 teaches us:

Because we've been justified by _____ trusting

in God's _____

we can be _____ that

we've been _____ !

1 Understanding the Provisions of Our Life Assurance Policy!

—1} TRUSTING = to place oneself under the authority or control of someone or something and to put complete confidence and dependence on whomever or whatever has this authority or control

—2} We've been JUSTIFIED = the act & judgment of God declaring a person to be righteous, free from guilt, and acceptable to Him

—3} We've been FORGIVEN = to let go of a debt, a wrong suffered, a sin or wrongful action; to give up and to no longer keep or hold; to set free

2 Understanding the BENEFITS & BLESSINGS of Our Life Assurance Policy

—1— We have **PEACE** with God! **{Romans 5:1}**

—2— We have **ACCESS** to God! **{Romans 5:2}**

—3— We enjoy a **HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION of GLORY**! **{Romans 5:2, 9–10}**

—4— We've been given the Holy Spirit as God's **GUARANTEE**! **{Romans 5:5}**

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—5— We have God's **UNFAILING & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**!
{Romans 5:5–8}

—6— We will be **RESCUED** from the God's wrath against ungodliness & unrighteousness. **{Romans 5:9–10}**

—7— We've been **RECONCILED** with God!
{Romans 5:10–11}

—PERSONAL REFLECTIONS & APPLICATIONS TO ENCOURAGE OUR FAITH–-

The Lord's Supper serves as a **VIVID REMINDER**:

—It's only through the Lord's sacrifice on the cross that we can have a **relationship** with God. Without the cross, we can't reach out to God.

—We are **rescued** from the penalty for sin because Jesus died in our place! He is our substitute!

—Our sinful actions made us enemies with God, but through our faith in the death, burial, & resurrection of Christ, we've been **reconciled** with. God!

—"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." **{1 Corinthians 11:26}** & "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." **{John 14:2–3}** The Lord's Supper reminds us about the Lord's **return** to take us to Glory with Him!

Some Discussion Questions to Help us Dig Deeper

Please carefully read Romans 5 to prepare for our study questions.

—1— Romans 5:1–2 draws attention to the reality that once we trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord & Savior, we have peace with God because we've been justified (declared by God to be righteous!). What's involved in being at peace with God? Is this peace simply a feeling or is it a fact that we need to process in order to enjoy the benefits & blessings related to it? What is the value we obtain from knowing that our relationship with God is secured by what Jesus accomplished for us at Calvary?

—2— Romans 5:5 explains to us that God gave His Holy Spirit to take residence in the life of every authentic follower of Christ as a guarantee that the glory of heaven is in our future. Ephesians 1:13–14 describe this as God's pledge or down payment to assure us of this. How would you use this to encourage someone who's fearful of losing their salvation?

—3—The **highlight** of Romans 5:6–11 is verse 8! This verse places a strong emphasis on the reality that we are saved in spite of the fact that we are all sinners; we don't deserve it & we're saved by grace thru faith! What would you say to someone who suggests that we might become too confident of our salvation, fall into sin & lose our righteous standing with God? Once we're saved how should we see ourselves? As sinners or as saints? How should we balance the truths that 1} we're sinners always in need of God's grace & 2} we're saints because of God's grace?

—4— How does any form of works salvation *(that suggests we can earn or that we need to hold onto God so He will hold onto us)* undermine the idea that God wants us to have an absolute assurance of our salvation? How should the Lord's Supper help us understand that we've been saved by grace & that we can't earn God's favor or approval? Why is it important that faithful followers of Christ feel assured of their salvation? What practical benefits come from this assurance?

—5— Since false assurance is a real possibility, how can we guard ourselves from it? What's the basis or foundation for true assurance?