

ROOTS

HE MADE US GOD'S FRIENDS

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – September 11, 2016

1. Open in prayer by reading Ephesians 3:14-21.
2. Read Romans 5:6-11.
 - a. The house churches in Rome were a living miracle—enemies had become friends. Different ethnic groups, rich, middle-class, poor, male, and female were the people God, unified in Christ. However, they were struggling to live in harmony. Paul is teaching the people of God how the gospel of God could transform them.

Why Does God Save You? Because...

1. He loves you. Read Romans 5:6-8.
 - Pastor Derwin said, "God forever, eternally, proved His love through the cross." What do you think of this gospel-truth?
 - Read Ephesians 1:3 and discuss this statement: "Jesus is our blessing, not necessarily our 'stuff.'"
 - Discuss your thoughts on this quote from the sermon: "The love of God through Jesus, the Messiah, is the love by which we interpret life and love others."
2. He wants to make you as righteous as Jesus. Read Romans 5:9.
 - Only Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law. God the Father, through Jesus' blood, declares us righteous because of Jesus. What are the implications of this gospel-truth for your life individually and for us corporately as a church?
 - Discuss the illustration where Pastor Derwin wrote the results of our sin nature on the sketch pad, then covered all of that with the red paint which signified Jesus' blood covering our sin.
3. He wants to make you His friend. Read Romans 5:10 and Hebrews 9:14.
 - What did the death of Jesus accomplish? What was restored? (Hint: what happens in reconciliation?)

Detailed commentary from R.J. Utey's book, *The Gospel According to Paul: Romans**:

- This is FUTURE PASSIVE INDICATIVE (cf. v. 10). This referred to our ultimate salvation, which is called "glorification" (cf. v. 2; 8:30, 1 John 3:2).
- The New Testament describes the word salvation in all VERB tenses:
 - (1) A completed act (AORIST) (Acts 15:11; Rom. 8:24; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5)
 - (2) Past act resulting in a present state (PERFECT) Eph. 2:5,8
 - (3) Progressive process (PRESENT) (1 Cor. 1:18; 15:2; 2 Cor. 2:15; 1 Thess. 4:14; 1 Pet. 3:21)
 - (4) Future consummation (FUTURE) (Rom. 5:9,10; 10:9)
- Salvation starts with an initial decision but progresses into a relationship that will one day be consummated. This concept is often described by the three theological terms: justification, which means "being delivered from the penalty of sin"; sanctification, which means "being delivered from the power of sin"; and glorification, which means "being delivered from the presence of sin."
- It is worth noting that justification and sanctification are both gracious acts of God, given to the believer through faith in Christ. However, the New Testament also speaks of sanctification as an ongoing process.
- 5:10 "if" This is a FIRST CLASS CONDITIONAL SENTENCE, which is assumed true from the writer's perspective or for his literary purposes. Humanity, God's ultimate creation, became enemies! Mankind (cf. Gen. 3:5) and Satan (cf. Isa. 14:14; Ezek. 28:2, 12–17) had the same problem, a desire for independence, a desire for control, a desire to be gods.

- “we were reconciled to God ... having been reconciled” This is both an AORIST PASSIVE INDICATIVE and an AORIST PASSIVE PARTICIPLE. The VERB “reconciled” originally meant “to exchange.” God has exchanged our sin for Jesus’ righteousness (cf. Isa. 53:4–6). Peace is restored (cf. v. 1)!

- “through the death of His son” The gospel of forgiveness is grounded in (1) the love of God; (2) the work of Christ.

4. He wants you to rejoice in Jesus. Read Romans 5:11.

- Discuss this statement: God loves us enough to allow us to be in a desert where the only water to drink is the “living water” provided by Jesus.

5. Pray for each other.

Soul-tattoo: Teach someone what you’ve learned.

**Utley, R. J. (1998). The Gospel according to Paul: Romans (Vol. Volume 5, Ro 5:9–10). Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International.*