

## Sinless Before the Resurrection

(Go To Meeting)  
Steven Greene—2021

We just kept Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, obviously memorializing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But the days of Unleavened Bread are an important part of that, because they picture us coming out of sin, away from sin. In a few weeks we're going to be keeping Pentecost, which represents the day of the resurrection of the firstfruits who have:

- been called
- been chosen
- repented
- been baptized
- received the Holy Spirit

The days of Unleavened Bread are interesting because of the sin that we are dealing with in this physical life. I say *interesting*, because there's an aspect of it that was a very difficult concept for me to understand.

1-John 1:8: "If we say that we do not have... [present tense active] ...sin..."

John is writing an epistle to converted people—baptized and have received the Holy Spirit.

So, "If we say that we do not have... present tense active] ...sin, **we are deceiving ourselves...**" (v 8).

I don't think it's a hard stretch for any of us to realize that we have sin present within us. Now, let me turn that around: Is there anyone who doesn't think that they have sin? *I would suggest that **IF** you don't think that there is some sin within, **THEN** we're going to cover that topic in great detail today, because it's an important factor in our lives!*

*Jesus Christ said, Matthew 4:4: "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceeds out of *the* mouth of God."*

Does any one of us believe that we live by every word of God today? We've repented, been baptized, we received the Holy Spirit! Much less *know* every word of God. In principle, the salvation that God has, has been working, is simple. But there are a lot of words in the Bible.

If no one is without sin, how is it possible for us to be judged sinless at the resurrection? In other words, at the return of Jesus Christ, how is it that we are found worthy to receive eternal life if we have sin in this life?

We're going to spend a fair amount of time

in Hebrews. This is an important concept, and it's not just important for us to understand, but it's actually an incredible picture of God's amazing love, grace and mercy. Understanding this gives us a real appreciation of what God is doing for us now through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:9: "Then He said, 'Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first *covenant* in order that He may establish the second *covenant*; **by Whose will...** [God's will] ...**we are sanctified**... [meaning cleansed of sin in this case] ...through **the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**" (vs 9-10).

It is God's will that we are sanctified and cleansed of sin! God determines who is cleansed and sanctified of sin.

Verse 14: "For by one offering He has obtained eternal perfection *for* those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after He had previously said, "This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days," says *the* Lord, "I will give My Laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds; **and their sins and lawlessness I will not remember ever again**" (vs 14-17).

It talks about eternal perfection! Eternal anything is not in this physical life. I think we can all agree on that! Everything in this life has an end. So, **eternal perfection** is saying that we are not perfected until we are spirit.

Verse 16 makes an important point: that God's Law is not just written in our mind, but it's written in our heart and there's a difference. There's a difference between knowing the Law in our mind and having the Law in our heart. We're going to talk a lot about that.

Verse 21: "And *having* a great High Priest over the house of God, let us approach God **with a true heart**... [one that is] ...with full conviction of faith, our hearts having been purified from a wicked conscience, and our bodies having been washed with pure water. Let us hold fast without wavering *to* the hope *that* we profess, for He Who promised *is* faithful; and let us be concerned about one another, and *be* stirring up *one another* unto love and good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, even as some *are* accustomed to do; but rather, encouraging *one another*, and all *the* more as you see the day drawing near" (vs 21-25).

Our heart is purified by God! That's an interesting thought. It doesn't say our heart *and* mind, it says our heart is purified. That leaves us a conscious that desires to obey God.

In vs 24 & 25 Paul is talking about stirring one another up. Why do we need to do that if we are sinless and we are already at the point that we need to be before God?

One of the things that Paul said, 'O wretched man that I am! Who shall save me from this body of death.' That's an interesting comment from one of the most humble and zealous converted saints in the Body of Christ. He saw himself as having sinned and we're going to talk about this.

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin so that grace may abound? MAY IT NEVER BE! We who died to sin, how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death; so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life. For **if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death, so also shall we be in the likeness of His resurrection**" (vs 1-5).

God's children are those who died—spiritually speaking—in the watery grave of baptism and then were brought out of it and received the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints."

In this physical life, this one that we now live, we are joined together in the death of Jesus Christ. His death was precious to God, so our death likewise is precious to God. This is important because we have to understand that we are living in the physical, but we are desiring and seeking the spiritual.

Just like Paul said, 'Who will deliver me from this body of death?' We are living in a physical body that has died through baptism, but we now live spiritually through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to God.

Romans 6:6: "Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be destroyed, so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin; because the one who has died *to sin* has been justified from sin" (vs 6-7).

That is regarded as righteous by God. Righteousness is regarded as *keeping the commandments! Obeying the Law!*

Verse 8: "Now, if we died together with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from *the* dead, dies no more; death no longer has any dominion over Him. For when He died, He died unto sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives unto God. In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof. Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are **alive from the dead**, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not rule over you **because you are not under Law, but under grace**" (vs 8-14).

Even though we repent of the sins **that we know we have committed**, by our faith and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ we are forgiven for those sins. We are constantly being tempted! Some of the temptations we don't even recognize; we don't even know. But worst of all, there are those sins within us—who knows every word of God, who perfectly keeps the Law—that we do not know about.

These are sins of ignorance in the best case. If there are sins that we know about, we have an obligation, we are required to repent of those. But there are sins of ignorance, because no man can perfectly keep the Law, except for Jesus Christ.

In fact, we know this to be true. What does Satan do? *Satan accuses us before God day and night!* If we did not have sin within us, how could he accuse us? What would there be to accuse us of? So, this is what we need to figure out and understand.

Verse 15: "What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? MAY IT NEVER BE! Don't you realize that to whom you yield yourselves *as* servants to obey, you are servants of the one you obey, whether *it is* of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But **thanks be to God**... [for that grace] ...that you were *the* servants of sin, **but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to you**" (vs 15-17).

At the end of v 16 it says that *obedience brings righteousness*. I think that everyone understands that obeying God's Law means that you're not committing sin. Obedience is obviously righteousness, because you are obeying and keeping the Law.

We have sin within us, so how are we righteous before God for those sins that we don't know about. Part of the key is the *heart*. Part of

understanding of how God imputes righteousness to us who have a body of sin and death has a lot to do with our heart's desire.

***Our desire should not be to serve sin, but to serve God!*** So, no flesh is sinless at death. We will never be completely free of sin in this life, because we cannot perfectly keep God's Law. So, how do we attain eternal life and be perfect? That is the real question!

It comes down to a couple of things. In this life, even with the Holy Spirit we are not sinless, but we are to consider ourselves *dead to sin* because we were conjoined in the baptism of death with Jesus Christ; His sacrificial death!

Paul said in 1-Cor., 'I die daily!' Paul talks about how no matter how great the temptation or how many times we fall, we must keep

- resisting sin
- hating sin
- repenting of sin
- dying to sin

We're not perfect in this life, but we must remind ourselves each and every day that we are dead to sin, *but alive to God*, as it says.

The second thing is that we are *under the grace of God* as long as we are striving against sin. And more than that, as long as we strive against sin and endeavor to obey God's Law and repent of sin, but more than that we are under the grace of God as long as we desire never to sin from the heart.

That's why God said that He's going to write them in our mind and heart! That's an important part of understanding God's Law. A very important part of it. We will see that what's in our heart has a lot to do with receiving ***a judgment of righteousness from God!***

Verse 18: "And having been delivered from sin, you became *the servants of righteousness.*"

Can you serve righteousness perfectly? *We cannot serve perfectly, but we can be servants and dedicated to righteousness!* That can be the zeal of our lives, that can be the drive or goal each and every day to serve righteousness.

Verse 19: "I [Paul] speak from a human point of view because of the weakness of your flesh; for just as you *once* yielded your members in bondage to uncleanness, and to lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now **yield your members in bondage to righteousness unto sanctification.**"

- Righteousness is *one who obeys the Law!*
- Sanctification is *cleansed of sin!*

*Because you serve righteousness, you are sanctified.*

Verse 20: "For when you were *the servants of sin*, you were free from righteousness. Therefore, what fruit did you have then in the *things* of which you are now ashamed? For the end result of those things *is* death. But **now that you have been delivered from sin** and have become servants of God, you have your fruit unto sanctification... [the cleansing of sin] ...and the end result *is* eternal life. For the wages of sin *is* death, **but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord**" (vs 20-23).

We must be continually yielding ourselves as voluntary bondservants in obedience to God so that He, by His grace, is continually sanctifying us, cleansing us. Our fruit unto sanctification is an interesting concept because the fruit that we have comes from keeping God's Law—*the fruits of the Holy Spirit! Those are the fruits unto sanctification!*

So, the fruits of righteousness leads to sanctification! But it's much more than keeping God's Law and doing good unto others. That's just the letter, if you will! It requires a humble and contrite heart before God Almighty! An absolute desire from the heart"

- to keep it perfectly
- to know it
- to practice it
- to understand it

*Along with sincere repentance for the sins that we knowingly commit!*

In 2-Cor. 7 there's a beautiful expression of true repentance, because it describes in many way a truly repentant person:

2-Corinthians 7:10: "For sorrow unto repentance before God works out salvation not to be repented of... [not to be regretted] ...but the sorrow of the world works out death. For see how this very thing... [this very sin that you are dealing with] ...our personal sorrow before God—brought about such earnestness in you! And, *what* a defense... [apology] ...and *what* indignation... [displeasure when you committed that sin] ...and fear, and vehement desire, and zeal!.... [for failing and moving on beyond it] and vengeance!.... [vindication by God that you received] ...In every way you have proved yourselves to be pure in the matter" (vs 10-11).

We don't really have the opportunity to do that for the sins that we don't know about. No man can perfectly keep the Law. This is why eternal life is a gift! We all have sin that we don't know about.

Sin that is unrepented of, because we are flesh and blood and live in this body of death.

Romans 8:10: “But if Christ *be* within you... [through the Holy Spirit] ...the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; **however, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**”

- Whose righteousness?
- Whose Holy Spirit is it?

### **It's God's!**

We are alive unto God because of His righteousness through the Holy Spirit, because of our heart's desire

- to obey Him
- to worship Him
- to love Him

*That is how we get there!*

### **Law and Sin:**

Romans 7:5: “For as long as we were in the flesh...”

Romans 8:5: “For those who walk according to the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but those who walk according to *the* Spirit mind the things of the Spirit.”

Romans 7:5: “For as long as we were in the flesh the passions of sins, which *were* through the law, were working within our own members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now **we have been released from the law,** because we have died *to that* in which we were held **so that we might serve in newness of the spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter**” (vs 5-6).

***We are not to be serving the lusts of the flesh, we are to be serving the righteousness of God and His Law!***

Do we do it perfectly? *No man, except for Jesus Christ, or woman has ever done it!* I want you to notice how many times Paul spoke of sin within himself:

Verse 14: “For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am carnal, having been sold *as a slave* under sin; because what I am working out myself, I do not know. For what I do not desire to do, this I do; moreover, what I hate, this *is what* I do. But if I am doing what I do not desire to do, I agree with the Law that *it is* good. So then, I am no longer working it out myself; rather, it is **sin that is dwelling within me;** because I fully understand that there is not dwelling within me—**that is, within my fleshly being**—*any* good....” (vs 14-18).

Paul is talking about the flesh here. He's not talking about the spiritual, the Holy Spirit within us; he's talking about his flesh.

“...For **the desire to do good is present within me**... [the Holy Spirit of God working within us, in our heart to desire to do good]...but how to work out that which is good, I do not find” (v 18).

Verse 19: “For the good that I desire to do, I am not doing; but the evil that I do not desire to do, this I am doing. But if I do what I do not desire to do, I am no longer working it out myself, **but sin that is dwelling within me.** Consequently, I find this law *in my members*, that when I desire to do good, **evil is present with me.** For I delight in the Law of God according to the inward man” (vs 19-22). **How does he delight in the Law?**

- it's from his heart
- he desires it
- he loves it
- it's Psa. 119 over and over for those who delight in the Law of God

Verse 23: “But I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is **within my own members.** O *what a* wretched man I am! Who shall save me from the body of this death? **I thank God for His salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.** Because of this, on the one hand, I myself serve the Law of God with *my* mind; but on the other hand, with the flesh, *I serve* the law of sin” (vs 23-25). *Paul says:*

I die daily! I want my fleshly body that is serving the law of sin and death to be dead to sin, dead and gone, so that I might live that spiritual perfection that I so desire. It comes from my heart! It's unattainable! It's there by my body is just full of this sin and death!

- Is this not an admission of Paul that is the same with us?
- Does his agony in this not reflect our own desires in our own heart?

We see the inward man/woman, we see within ourselves and we know what's in there. We may not know every sin, but we know what our temptations are and what our weaknesses are, ***and we hate it!*** That's what Paul was talking about here. ***He is describing the fight that every child of God is fighting!***

We know that sin exists within us, and we win many of those battles through repentance. But the others are there!

- we know it

- we know the temptations
- we feel them
- we think them

*But we just haven't got the ability to be perfect in the Law of God like Jesus was!*

### **Judgment:**

2-Corinthians 5:10: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ **so that each one may receive according to the things done in his body...** [the body of death] **...what he has practiced, whether good or evil.**" *That is how we are judged!*

Again, Paul is referring to the *law of sin and death **in his body*** that is contrary to the law of God in his mind and heart!

- How will we be judged?
- What will God's judgment be based upon?

Hebrews 4:12: "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and the marrow, **and is able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" *It does not say 'mind'!*

Why? *Because when we talk about the heart*, there's an aspect of influence that it has on our mind. If I am completely emotionless, if somebody asked me to do something, I might respond and say, 'I can do that!'

But with the influence of my heart, if it is something that I truly want to do, I wouldn't just say I can do that, I would say, 'I would love to do that!' that is the influence of the heart on the mind. In our mind we say, 'I don't want to do that, I don't want to sin.' But how much do we want to do that? *That is the desires and the thoughts of the heart!* That's what Paul was describing in Rom. 7.

1-Peter 4:17: "For the time *has come* for judgment to begin with the household of God..."

When will we be judged for the thoughts and intents of our heart? *Every single day that we are alive! Every single day!*

This is a story that is a vision and paints a picture of how God deals with our body of death, the body of sin that we live in. it's a vision of the judgment of Joshua:

Zechariah 3:1: "And He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him."

There we have God, and before Him is

Joshua and Satan. What does Satan do? *He is accusing Joshua that Satan knows he has!* It says that Satan accuses us day and night before God.

Verse 2: "And the LORD said to Satan, 'May the LORD rebuke you, Satan! May even the LORD Who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked out of the fire?'"

This means that Joshua was deserving of death but He was pulled from it and allowed to live. Isn't this interesting; this is in the Old Testament. This is the Elohim speaking to one another: *God and the Word, God the Father and Jesus Christ!* Why was Joshua allowed to live? *Because God had imputed righteousness to him!*

Romans 8:33: "Who shall bring an accusation against *the* elect of God? **God is the One Who justifies.** Who *is* the one that condemns? *It is Christ Who died*, but rather, Who is raised again, Who is even *now* at *the* right hand of God, *and* Who is also making intercession for us" (vs 33-34).

So, right here we have the picture of judgment: *God the Father, Jesus Christ, Joshua and Satan!*

Zechariah 3:3: "Now, Joshua was clothed with filthy garments... [unrighteousness] ...and stood before the angel."

Revelation says that 'fine linen' is the righteousness of the saints.

Verse 4: And He [God] ...answered and spoke to those who stood before him, saying, 'Take the filthy garments from **off him.**'.... [Joshua] ...And to him He [God] said, 'Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with ceremonial robes'"—***stately, splendid or regal robes! Robes of righteousness!***

So, contrary to Satan's accusations, based upon the intercession of Jesus Christ God not only rebukes Satan, but He imputes righteousness to Joshua.

How is it that we have this grace upon us? Now we have to talk a little bit about ***the faith of Jesus Christ to understand the righteousness of God that we receive!***

Romans 4:5: "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him Who justifies the ungodly, his **faith is reckoned for righteousness.** Even as David also declares the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness separate from works" (vs 5-6)—*keeping the Law!*

Verse 7: "Blessed are *those* whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed *is the* man to whom *the* Lord will

not impute *any* sin” (vs 7-8).

That’s just another way of saying, ‘Imputing righteousness!’ He does not impute sin!

Romans 1:17: For therein **the righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith**, according as it is written: ‘The just **shall live** by faith.’”

What does that mean?

Philippians 3:9: “...*righteousness*, which is by *the* faith of Christ, the righteousness of God *that is* based on faith.”

Faith is ***the faith of Jesus Christ!*** We have Jesus Christ’s faith in us. In fact, the faith that we have of Jesus Christ is a small amount of faith in the beginning and it is something that we are to grow.

Hebrews 12:2: “Having *our minds* fixed on Jesus, the Beginner... [Author, Captain, Prince] ...and Finisher of *our* faith...”

He is going to complete our faith that He had, that He is building within us. ***It is that faith that is the righteousness of God!***

Rom. 3 is going to explain how we are judged sinless at the resurrection.

Romans 3:21: “But now *the* righteousness of God... [imputed to us] ...*that is* separate from law has been revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets.”

Why is God’s righteousness that is imputed to us “...separate from law...”? *Because we can’t perfectly keep it!* If we can’t perfectly keep the Law, where does the righteousness come from? *It has to come from God!* He perfectly keeps His own Law. So, He imputes His righteousness to us because of the faith that we had in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Verse 22: “Even *the* righteousness of God *that is* through *the* faith of Jesus Christ, toward all and upon all those who believe; for there is no difference.... [between Jew and Greek] ...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (vs 22-23).

None of us can have the glory of God’s righteousness in this life.

Verse 24: “*But* are being justified **freely** by His grace through the redemption that *is* in Christ Jesus; Whom God has openly manifested *to be* a propitiation through faith in His blood, in order to demonstrate His righteousness, in respect to the remission of sins that are past” (vs 24-25).

*All sin is past!* You don’t have sin that has not yet occurred, unless you are sinning right now, you don’t have sin. All sin is past.

Verse 26: “Through the forbearance of God; *yes*, to publicly declare His righteousness in the present time, that He might be just, and the One Who justifies the one who *is* of *the* faith of Jesus.”

It is impossible to be completely free of sin in this life. We cannot perfectly keep His Law. That sin is mainly ignorance! If we don’t know that we’re breaking the Law, that’s a sin of ignorance and we don’t know about it.

God imputes His righteousness to us according to our faith, which we receive from Jesus Christ—the faith of Christ—in us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. So, this is ***faith unto faith!***

We see faith in Jesus, and we in turn believe in His sacrifice for our sins whereby God imputes His righteousness to us. That is why righteousness is based on faith. We require this daily. Satan is constantly up there countering our righteousness before God. In other words, today he’s accusing me of new sins, yesterday he was accusing me of other sins. Tomorrow he’ll be accusing me of even different sins or additional sins.

But God’s righteousness is imputed to you and me and we are being justified because of that. That is regarded as righteousness.

Hebrews 4:12: “For the Word of God *is* living...”—*it truly is!* Do you believe that God’s Word is alive and working in us?

When we understand the Truth, it’s not just a mental understanding; it’s not just something we intellectually grasp. It is in our heart! That’s how it’s working in us. It’s working in us because we are desiring, from our heart to keep God’s Word. That’s why it’s living in us!

Verse 12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of both soul and spirit, *and* of both *the* joints and *the* marrow, and **is able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart**. And there is not a created thing that is not manifest in His sight; but all things *are* naked and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account. Having, therefore, a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should **hold fast the confession of our faith**” (vs 12-14).

God is freely justifying us by His grace, because we are imperfect human beings.

Verse 15: “For **we do not have a High Priest Who cannot empathize with our weaknesses**, but *One Who* was tempted in all things according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; yet, *He was* without sin. Therefore, we should come

with boldness to the Throne of Grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (vs 15-16).

Do we receive the grace of God only when we repent of sin? *No!* God’s grace is there continually! Otherwise we could not be in a state of being justified, having His righteousness imputed to us.

It is a continual thing. If God was not continually justifying us, we would be dead in our sins and there would be no hope. But God looks upon the thoughts and intentions of the heart!

- Are we serving sin?
- or
- Are we serving righteousness?

What do we desire to do above all else? *If God sees a heart that is:*

- zealous for His Word
- zealous for His love
- zealous for faith
- zealous to do good works

***That is the heart that He is willing to call justified, because we’re trying with all of our heart!***

John 13 we just read at Passover. It is the foot-washing ceremony. I want to read it because this is a Biblical example of one of zealous heart. A heart that desires to serve righteousness.

John 13:5: “Next, He poured water into a washing basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel, which He had secured. Then He came to Simon Peter; and he said to Him, ‘Lord, are You going to wash my feet?’ Jesus answered and said to him, **‘What I am doing you do not understand now, but you shall know after these things’**” (vs 5-7).

Verse 8: “Peter said to Him, ‘You shall not wash my feet, not ever.’....”

How can I allow the God of the heavens above wash my feet? That makes no sense; I should be bowing before You, You are the Creator God! Yet, You’re going to wash my feet! “...not ever....”

“...Jesus answered him, **‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.’**” (v 8).

I can only imagine that Peter was stunned when he heard that! Jesus was saying that if He did not wash Peter’s feet, *you’re out of here! You will be rejected! I will reject you, because you won’t let Me wash your feet!*

Verse 9: “Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord,

not my feet only, but also *my hands and my head.*”

I so want to have a part with You! I desire with all my heart to be with you, to do what you command, to live by your ways! To understand!

Verse 10: “Jesus said to him, ‘The one who has been washed does not need to wash *anything other* than the feet, but is completely clean...”

That is a zealous heart for righteousness, serving righteousness, desiring it above all things. That was Peter’s reaction. I think the reaction of most of us.

Now, we need to talk a little bit about righteousness and the grace and love of God. It’s all connected together. You can’t separate some of these things and put them into individual little bins. It’s all connected.

Romans 5:5: “And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us. For even when we were without strength, at the appointed time Christ died for *the ungodly*” (vs 5-6).

Verse 9: “Much more, therefore, having been justified now by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”—*Jesus Christ!*

Verse 18: “So then, even as by the one... [Adam] ...transgression condemnation *came* unto all men, in the same way also, by the one act of righteousness *shall* justification of life *come* unto all men. For even as by **the disobedience** of the one man many were made sinners, in the same way also, **by the obedience of the one Man** [Jesus Christ] shall many be made righteous. Moreover, the law entered, so that transgression might abound; but where sin abounded, the grace of God did super abound” (vs 18-20).

It had to, because when the Law was brought in and condemned us to death, God’s grace had to abound even more because of our weaknesses.

Verse 21: “So that even as sin has reigned unto death, so also might the grace of God reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

How are we to stand sinless in the day of our judgment? *By God imputing His righteousness to us, which is total love and grace!*

Romans 5:8 “But God commends His own love to us because, when we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- His love

- His grace
- His mercy

*It's all there, extended to us making us justified before Him, sanctified before Him!* It is through His love for us that He has grace toward us, so He imputes righteousness to those who have a heart desiring to serve Him.

Ephesians 1:4: "According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be Holy and blameless before Him in love; having predestinated us for sonship to Himself through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure **of His own will**" (vs 4-5).

- *It is God's will that we are sanctified!*
- *He wants to do it!*
- *He desires to do it!*

Verse 6: "To *the* praise of *the* glory **of His grace**, wherein He has made us objects of *His* grace in the Beloved *Son*... [because of Jesus Christ's sacrifice] ...in Whom we have redemption through His blood, *even* the remission of sins, according to the riches **of His grace**" (vs 6-7).

How does all this work? *Gal. 2, which is probably one of the key Scriptures in all the Bible!*

Galatians 2:16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by works of law, but through *the* faith of Jesus Christ, we also have believed in Christ Jesus in order that we might be justified by *the* faith of Christ, and not by works of law; **because by works of law shall no flesh be justified.**"

Verse 20: "**I have been crucified with Christ, yet, I live. Indeed, it is no longer I; but Christ lives in me. For the life that I am now living in the flesh, I live by faith—that very faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.**"

That is how it works! These verse are such a reflection, a synopsis and summary of what God and Christ are doing each and every day to deal with the sins that we have within, that we don't even know about. So that at the day of our resurrection we are justified, sanctified and made eternally perfect and justified.

1-Peter 4:8: "But above all, have fervent love among yourselves **because love will cover a multitude of sins.**"

Multitude is 'plethos' in the Greek. In English we have the word *plethora*, which means a vast number. This word in the Greek has a different sense to it. It means to fill up, fulfilled or full. In other words, as it says:

Proverbs 10:12: "...love covers all sins."

This is the love of God toward us! This is why we love God in return! That's why Jesus Christ gives us His faith, and we have faith in that sacrifice in return.

It's all wrapped up together through our hearts, because we love God. We have faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and we want to please Him.

1-John 1:7: "**...the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin**"

Brethren, do not become discouraged by sin, by the failings of this flesh. Even if you have a sin that you are repenting of over and over again, do not become discouraged. God can forgive all those things.

This is the war that we wage against our accusers. This is the message of the Passover and the days of Unleavened Bread. We should rejoice, because Jesus Christ is our Intercessor, standing there and rebuking Satan who wants us to be condemned.

We should rejoice, because Jesus Christ is living in us. God's Word is alive in us! We should rejoice because of the faith of Jesus Christ that we have. We should rejoice because God in His mercy, grace and love is continually covering our sins and imputing His righteousness to us.

The message of Pentecost is something that we rejoice about, too, because as it says:

Luke 12:32: "**...for your Father delights in giving you the Kingdom.**"

That is the desire of His heart. That's the thoughts and intents of God's heart. He delights in giving us the Kingdom, *the eternal Kingdom!*

Brethren, have a blessed Sabbath and prepare for that day we call Pentecost. *It is all about the end of this struggle!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) 1 John 1:8
- 2) Matthew 4:4
- 3) Hebrews 10:9-10, 14-17, 21-25
- 4) Romans 6:1-5
- 5) Psalm 116:15
- 6) Romans 6:6-23
- 7) 2 Corinthians 7:10-11
- 8) Romans 8:10
- 9) Romans 7:5
- 10) Romans 8:5
- 11) Romans 7:5-6, 14-25



- 12) 2 Corinthians 5:10
- 13) Hebrews 4:12
- 14) 1 Peter 4:17
- 15) Zechariah 3:1-2
- 16) Romans 8:33-34
- 17) Zechariah 3:32-4
- 18) Romans 4:5-8
- 19) Romans 1:17
- 20) Philippians 3:9
- 21) Hebrews 12:2
- 22) Romans 3:21-26
- 23) Hebrews 4:12-16
- 24) John 13:5-10
- 25) Romans 5:5-6, 9, 18-21, 8
- 26) Ephesians 1:4-7
- 27) Galatians 2:16, 20
- 28) 1 Peter 4:8
- 29) Proverbs 10:12
- 30) 1 John 1:7
- 31) Luke 12:32

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Psalm 119

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