

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ROMANS

Message Five

Being Saved in Life and Reigning in Life for the Body Life

Scripture Reading: Rom. 5:10, 17, 21

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I. Through God's divine dispensing in us and His divine union with us, we can experience and enjoy the saving in Christ's life in God's full salvation, as conveyed to us in Romans, in the following aspects—5:10:

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- A. By the abundance of grace (God Himself) and of the gift of righteousness (Christ Himself) which we received, we are able to reign in Christ's divine life over sin, death, the old man, the flesh, Satan, the world, and all persons, matters, and things that do not submit to God—v. 17.
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- B. God's holy nature sanctifies our worldly disposition; God sanctifies us dispositionally out of His divine life and unto His divine life that we may enjoy more of His divine life—6:19, 22; 15:16.
- Rom 6:19 I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness ¹unto lawlessness, so now ^apresent your members as slaves to righteousness unto ^{2b}sanctification.
- Rom 6:22 But now, having been ^afreed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto ^{1b}sanctification, and the end, ^ceternal ²life.
- Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- C. The indwelling law of the Spirit of life, that is, the automatic and spontaneous working of the Triune God as life in us, frees us from the law of sin and of death, the slavery and bondage of sin; the operation of this law comes out of God's divine life, and it also causes the increase of the divine life in us—8:2, 11.
- Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.
- Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- D. The Divine Trinity's divine dispensing in our spirit, soul, and body causes these three parts to be saturated with the processed divine life, with the result that our entire being is completely united with the processed Triune God and mingled with Him as one—vv. 5-11.
- Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the ¹things of the flesh; but those who are ²according to the spirit, the ³things of the Spirit.
- Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.
- Rom 8:7 Because the mind set on the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, for neither can it be.
- Rom 8:8 And ¹those who are ²in the flesh cannot please God.

- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- E. The renewing of our mind by the Spirit results in the transformation of our soul, which saves us from being conformed to the modern style of the world and issues in all the virtues and the overcoming, mentioned in chapters 12 through 16, as our daily life, a life of the highest standard, and as our church life, a life that is all-overcoming—12:2.
- Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.
- F. By the renewing of our mind and the transformation of our soul, we become members one of another with all believers in the Body of Christ and are built up together as the Body of Christ and thereby have the service of the Body; this is the crystallization of our experience of the saving in Christ's life—vv. 1, 3-8.
- Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.
- Rom 12:3 For I say, through the ^agrace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to ¹think more ^bhighly of *himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be ^csober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a ^dmeasure of faith.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- Rom 12:6 And having ^{1a}gifts that differ according to the ^bgrace given to us, whether ^{2c}prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the ^dproportion of faith;
- Rom 12:7 Or ¹service, *let us be faithful* in that service; or he who ^ateaches, in that teaching;
- Rom 12:8 Or he who ^aexhorts, in that exhortation; he who ^{1b}gives, in simplicity; he who ^{2c}leads, in diligence; he who ³shows ^dmercy, in cheerfulness.
- G. Based on the revelation and teaching in chapters 14 through 16, we live the life of the local church in different localities as the appearance of the Body of Christ, the universal church, in different localities.
- H. By becoming the built-up church, a church against which the gates of Hades cannot prevail, in different localities, we afford God the opportunity to crush Satan under our feet that we may enjoy Christ as our rich grace and the God of peace as our surpassing peace—16:20.
- Rom 16:20 Now the ^aGod of peace will ^{1b}crush Satan ^cunder your feet shortly. The ^{2d}grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- I. In our experience of the various aspects of the saving in the divine life, as mentioned above, we are being conformed to the image of the firstborn Son of God through the "all things" arranged under God's sovereignty, so that we have His divine attributes and His human virtues and thereby express the glory and beauty of Him, the God-man—8:28-29.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that ¹all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His* ⁵purpose.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- J. In the process of our experience of the saving in the divine life, the splendor of the divine life gradually saturates us until it saturates our body, issuing in the redemption of our body, that our spirit, soul, and body may all enter into the glory of God; this glorification is the peak attained in us by the saving in the divine life, and it is the climax of God's full salvation—vv. 23, 30, 17.
- Rom 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have ¹the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves ²groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting ^{3a}sonship, the ^bredemption of our body.

- Rom 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also ^{1a}justified; and those whom He justified, these He also ^{2b}glorified.
- Rom 8:17 And ¹if children, ^aheirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we ^bsuffer with *Him* that we may also be ^cglorified with *Him*.

II. Romans reveals that the believers need to reign in life with grace over all things for the Body life—5:10, 17, 21:

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- A. God's complete salvation is for us to reign in life by the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness:
1. The gift of righteousness is for God's judicial redemption; grace is for us to experience God's organic salvation.
 2. Reigning in life is the full experience of the organic salvation of God.
- B. We have been regenerated with a divine, spiritual, heavenly, kingly, and royal life—Mark 4:26; 1 John 3:9.
- Mark 4:26 And He said, So is the ^{1a}kingdom of God: as if a ²man cast ^{3b}seed on the earth,
- 1 John 3:9 Everyone who has been ¹begotten of God does ²not practice sin, because His ^{3a}seed ^babides in him; and he ⁴cannot sin, because he has been begotten of God.
- C. Reigning in life in Romans 5 is the key to everything in Romans 6-16:
1. We need to see everything in chapters 6 through 16 in this light.
 2. If we reign in life, we are in all the matters presented in these chapters.
- D. In experience, to reign in life means to be under the ruling of the divine life:
1. Christ is a pattern of reigning in life by being under the ruling of the divine life of the Father—Matt. 8:9.

Matt 8:9 For I also am a man under ¹authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does *it*.

 2. Paul is an example of one who, in his life and ministry, was under the ruling of the divine life to live to the Lord for the Body—2 Cor. 2:12-14; 5:14; Rom. 14:7-9.

2 Cor 2:12 ¹Furthermore, when I came to ^aTroas for the gospel of Christ and a ^bdoor was open to me ²in the Lord,

2 Cor 2:13 I had no rest in my ^{1a}spirit, for I did not find ^bTitus my brother; but taking leave of them, I went forth into ^{2c}Macedonia.

2 Cor 2:14 But ^athanks be to God, who always ¹leads ²us in ^btriumph in ³the Christ and manifests the ^{4c}savor of the ^dknowledge of Him through ⁵us in every place.

2 Cor 5:14 For the ^{1a}love of Christ ²constrains us because we ³have judged this, that ^{4b}One died for ^call, ⁵therefore all died;

Rom 14:7 For none of us ^alives to himself, and none dies to himself;

Rom 14:8 For whether we ^alive, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the ^bLord's.

Rom 14:9 For Christ ^adied and lived *again* for this, that He might be ^bLord both of the dead and of the living.

 3. There is the need for all the believers who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness to practice the restriction and limitation in the divine life.
- E. The issue of our reigning in life, living under the ruling of the divine life, is the real and practical Body life expressed in the church life.
- F. Each item of the living of the Body life in Romans 12—13 requires us to be ruled by the divine life to live to the Lord:

1. We need to be captivated by the compassions of God—12:1a.
 Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.
 2. We must present our bodies as a living sacrifice—v. 1b.
 3. We should not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind—v. 2.
 Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.
 4. We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think, but think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith—v. 3.
 Rom 12:3 For I say, through the ^agrace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to ¹think more ^bhighly of *himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be ^csober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a ^dmeasure of faith.
 5. We should consider that in the Body of Christ we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function—vv. 4-5.
 Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
 Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- G. We need to live a life of the highest virtues for the Body life by reigning in life:
1. We should love without hypocrisy and love one another warmly in brotherly love—vv. 9a, 10a.
 Rom 12:9a ¹Let ^alove be without hypocrisy. ...
 Rom 12:10a ^aLove one another warmly in brotherly love; ...
 2. We should not be slothful in zeal, but burning in spirit, serving the Lord—v. 11.
 Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be ^{1a}burning in spirit, ^{2b}serving the Lord.
 3. We should endure in tribulation—v. 12b.
 Rom 12:12b ... ^aendure in tribulation; ^bpersevere in prayer.
 4. We should rejoice with those who rejoice, and we should weep with those who weep—v. 15.
 Rom 12:15 ¹Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
 5. If possible, as far as it depends on us, we should live in peace with all men—v. 18.
 Rom 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in ^apeace with all men.
- H. Reigning in life is "unto eternal life"—5:21:
 Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
1. *Unto eternal life* is a particular expression.
 2. John 4:14b says, "The water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life":
 - a. *Into* (in Romans 5:21) speaks of destination and also means "to become" or "to be."
 Rom 5:21 In order that just as ^{1a}sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through ²righteousness unto ^beternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - b. The eternal life will eventually be the New Jerusalem.
 - c. *Into eternal life* means "into the New Jerusalem."
 3. The New Jerusalem is the totality of the divine life, the totality of the life of God.
 4. The issue and goal of our reigning in life are for us to become the New Jerusalem, the universal incorporation of the union and mingling of divinity with humanity.