“Much, Much More”

April 15, 2018

Colossians 1:9-17

Please find with me the 5th chapter of Romans.

When our children were small, there was one movie that we watched easily thirty times as they were growing up; “The Sound of Music,” a story about a nun who became a governess to children of a widower, the Sea Captain Baron Von Trapp. We loved it and still love it to this day.

One of the scenes we’ve often quoted to each other over the years was this one. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJTRZI2HThU

Captain: Now, when I want you, this is what you will hear. *[Blows whistle]*

Maria: Oh, no, sir, I'm sorry, sir. I could never answer to a whistle. Whistles are for dogs and cats and other animals, but not for children, and definitely not for me. It would be too... humiliating.

Captain: Fräulein, were you this much trouble at the Abbey?

Maria: Oh, much, much more, sir!

Captain: Hmm. *[starts to leave the room when Maria blows the whistle. He looks back at her.]*

Maria: Excuse me, sir, I don't know your signal.

Captain: You may call me "Captain."

What we’ve all laughed at over and over is Maria’s line “Oh, much, much more, sir!”

When you read God’s Word, aren’t you sometimes especially amazed to see just how the Holy Spirit uses language? Words aren’t just important. They are a huge part of God’s blessing upon humanity. And God was and is the greatest Wordsmith in existence.

Let me show you what I mean. Please find the ninth verse of this fifth chapter of Romans.

Romans 5:9 *“****Much more*** *then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,* ***much more****, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

And look on down to verse fifteen. Romans 5:15 *“But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead,* ***much more*** *the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.”*

Romans 5:17 *“**For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;* ***much more*** *they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) (20) Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did* ***much more*** *abound:…”*

“How much food will you need for your family when they come in for the holiday?” “With X amount be enough?” “No, not at all. We’ll need much more.”

“How much will it cost to do this renovation on our kitchen, $3,000.00?” “Oh, no, much more; probably $6,000.00.”

It means “something existing to a greater extent than you already know or have.”

Now, you may know *some* of what is yours because of Christ. But, we don’t know what we don’t know. And there’s much more to what God has done and has given to his children. That’s what’s on my heart today.

So that’s the title of the sermon “Much, Much More.” Shall we pray?

The LORD Himself must have loved these words as well.

Matthew 6:30 *“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not* ***much more*** *clothe you, O ye of little faith?”*

Luke 12:24 *“Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how* ***much more*** *are ye better than the fowls?”*

You see, it’s not enough that God clothes the grass in His wisdom and love. It’s not enough that He feeds the ravens who have no storehouses or barns. There’s much more. He’ll also take care to see that *your* physical needs are supplied as well.

And here’s Jesus again. Matthew 7:11 *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how* ***much more*** *shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

And the Apostle Peter, does he use the phrase? I Peter 1:17 *“That the trial of your faith, being* ***much more*** *precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: …*

God is certainly the God of the much more. And, as you can see, it’s His own words, His own way of expressing an even greater level of personal care He takes for you as His child.

So, today’s lesson is the “much, much, more” from Romans five. And it’s one of the greatest “much more” passages in the entire Bible. And, by the way, this same phrase is found another forty-one times in the OT.

Please look with me at verse six. Romans 5:6 *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8)**But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

*(9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10)**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

This is the big picture. This is “The Romans Road To Righteousness” created by Irving Jensen. And as you can see, Romans five falls in the section titled “The Way of Salvation.” And here is where Paul describes what it means to be justified by God.

This is the way it is between God and man. You are either justified or unjustified at this very moment of your life. You are either saved or you are not saved. You are either a Believer or an Unbeliever. Either Jesus is LORD or you are.

And He, the LORD of Heaven and Earth, has provided a perfect justification for you and me. Jesus’ death on the Cross was no accident. It was part of the Divine Plan. Yes, the Romans and the Jews intended it for evil. But, God intended it for good.

And that good is this. You can be justified by faith in Christ. Justified; declared righteous. Once you were condemned. Now you are free. Once you were a sinner. Now, by faith in the finished work of Christ, you are a Saint.

Everything you have in Christ flows from the Cross. Redemption. Christ shed His blood so that the payment for your sin might be fully paid. Forgiveness. He releases you from the debt of your sin. Justification. He, The Eternal Judge, declares you just as righteous as Jesus Himself.

You see, everything you need for life and godliness is found in the One Who was crucified, died, and rose the third day. He became sin so that you might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

II Corinthians 5:21 *“For he [the Father] hath made him [the Son] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him [Christ].”*

If you are here today and without Christ, you stand condemned before God because of your sin. But, if you surrender to Him today and put your faith in the finished work of Christ, God removes every single aspect of that condemnation and places you on a “much, much more” platform of love and grace.

That’s what we find here in this fifth chapter.

Here’s you and me; verse 6 – without strength; completely without any ability to help yourself spiritually.

Here’s you and me again; verse 6 – ungodly; without God in your heart and life. Romans 5:6 *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

Here’s you and me again; verse eight – without holiness. And the ones without holiness are sinners. We are sinners by birth, by nature, and by choice. And what has God done for the morally weak, the ungodly, and the sinners? Romans 5:8 “*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

Have you ever wondered who were the ones for whom Christ died? This is the answer from your Bible. Those without the strength to do anything for themselves spiritually. Those who were ungodly in their speech, attitudes, and behavior. And those who were sinners.

Now, what does the LORD say about the “much more”? Verse nine. Romans 5:9 “***Much more*** *then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10)**For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,* ***much more****, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

Oh, and here’s you and I again; verse ten. Not only were we without strength, ungodly, and sinners. We were also His enemies.

Romans 5:10*“For if,* ***when we were enemies****, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

When you were saved, you really had no idea where you were spiritually. I certainly didn’t. All I knew was that I was a sinner and that Jesus had died for my sins. Now, when I read the Book of Romans, I see to a deeper degree what the LORD was seeing; without strength, ungodly, sinners; and now enemies.

You really can’t imagine the greatness of God’s love if you miss what Paul is saying here. Folks, we weren’t mere sinners. We were the one group you would never expect God to have a heart for. We were His enemies. And it was for His enemies that He sent Jesus into this world to die for.

Who here thinks they’d have enough love in their hearts to die for their enemies? Yes, I’m sure you’d die for your son or your daughter. I’m sure you’d even die for a brother or a sister. Yes, I’m sure you’d even die for your Mom or Dad. But, what about dying to save the life for your enemy? Would that be something you’d consider? Would that be something you would do?

You see, an enemy is an enemy for a reason. And that reason was not on God’s side. *We* choose to sin. *We* choose self over others. *We* love darkness. *We* much prefer that the light not expose what we’re really like. By nature we magnify self. By birth and by experience we prefer praise rather than put effort into praise the LORD Himself. We love the praises of men. We’ve set ourselves up as enemies. And all the while, God loves us.

Jesus puts it this way. John 3:19 *“And this is the condem-nation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.”*

There are two extremely important things that fall into the “much more” category. Here they are.

First, we, the justified, are delivered from any expression of God’s wrath. Romans 5:9 “***Much more*** *then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”*

Second, we, the reconciled, shall be saved by His life. Romans 5:10 *“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,* ***much more****, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

Now, I hope it’s difficult for you to imagine. But here’s what the Bible teaches. God not only loves the morally weak and the ungodly and the sinners. He loves His enemies.

And think about it like this. It stands in total contrast to all the man-made religions of the world. Where will you find a God in any religion, anywhere in the world doing this; loving His enemies? And then, loving them so much, He gives His own life for them. Can you see why the Gospel is so powerful?

Somebody here, I’m sure, has had his or her doubts about your salvation. And there are times when doubts have bene-fited us because they caused us to find the causes of our doubts. But, folks, if you’ve been justified, there is no reason for doubts.

Here’s why. You’ve been saved from wrath through the work of Christ at Calvary. This is one of the “much more’s” of God. You see, once you’ve been justified, there is no more “wrath to come” for you.

You came to Him in faith. You repented. No longer do you believe what you once did. You’ve received what He says about Himself, about yourself, and about His Son. And you are now trusting in what Jesus did at the Cross. You are fully, completely, perfectly, and eternally justified. Christ has done it all. There is nothing for you to do; except to rest in the facts of the cross.

So, the LORD says to you “Look at the much more – not only are you fully, completely, perfectly and eternally justified, you’ve been delivered, rescued, saved from any and every part of God’s wrath. For lack of a better term for some; you’ve been given an eternal “get out of jail free” card. There is no way you can ever be brought again into the condemnation of God’s wrath against sinners and against sin. There is nothing that can separate you from Him again.

And, none of it was your doing. It was all His doing. His work was a work on behalf of those without strength; and on behalf of those who were ungodly; and on behalf of those who were sinners; and on behalf those who were His enemies.

Can you see the much more with me today? Can you see the greater extent that God has gone to on your behalf? Look back at the very first words of this chapter. You’ve been:

1. Justified by faith – Romans 5:1 “Therefore being now justified by His blood …”
2. Justified by His blood – Romans 5:9 “*Much more then, being now justified by his blood, …”*
3. Saved from wrath – Romans 5:9 *“saved from wrath…”*
4. Saved by His life – Romans 5:10 *“much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

And now you’ve been delivered from every hint of wrath and you are being saved by His life which He has placed within you.

So, let me ask you, where are your doubts now? Justified by faith; justified by His blood; delivered from wrath; saved by His life. What did you do? Believed. You believed. He declared you righteous in His own sight. You stopped trusting your good works to save you. He took that very small “mustard seed of faith” and it’s now blooming into a full-grown mustard tree; a tree of a life bound up in the Person and work of the LORD Jesus. You see, God doesn’t do things half way. He does much, much more than you can even imagine.

Now, I know, for a fact, that you like it when someone goes out of his or her way to do something for you. You like it when they do much more than you expect. But, how much more does God do for you? Hebrews 9:13 *“For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: (14)* ***How much more*** *shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

If you are here today and missing out on God, here’s what you’re missing out on. You are missing out on His love. You see, He doesn’t just love you. He loves you to the uttermost. There is nothing that even comes close to what God has done in Christ; nothing.

So, what will you do now that you are armed with these simple truths? Here’s what you will do; two things. One, you express your gratefulness to your Heavenly Father for all of His “much mores.” And two, you will go out and tell someone what He has done.

This news is not for you to keep. It’s Good News beyond all the good news anyone will ever hear. So, take the truth to someone this week. Open your mouth and let God fill it – with the message of the Cross.

Do not put your Light under a bushel this week. Let it fill all the house.

Shall we pray?

Closing hymn # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”