

Sunday School Lesson, May 19, 2024
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Lesson—Remaining Strong¹

Text—Romans 5:1-11

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Be inspired by Paul's faith, especially in the face of weaknesses, challenges, and failures.
2. Acknowledge how faith builds endurance for adversity and tough times.
3. Express gratitude for God's love and the help of the Holy Spirit.

Why This Lesson Matters: In the letter to the Christians in Rome, Paul instills hope and assures us that we are justified, not by works, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Key Verse—(Romans 5:1) Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.(KJV)

Song of Praise and Worship: “Finish Strong(Strong Finish” by Jonathan Nelson

II. Points to be Emphasized

- a. *The faith Paul talks about here is not just conceptual but rather is both a competent trust in our limitless God as well as a recognition that we ourselves are very limited.*
- b. *Paul speaks of an inner peace in verse 7 and also refers to relational peace with God.*
- c. *For Paul, there's no question of “returning the favor” with salvation; Rather, the appropriate response is to please and accurately represent the giver.*
- d. *The word translated “disappoint” in verse five is closer to “shamed” in the Greek. In the NIV it is translated “put to shame”. Paul was reminded in the church that our unseen hope will not leave us shamed for believing in the ridiculous, while we wait for Hope to be realized.*

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnb.com

III. *Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context*

The book of Romans takes its name from its recipients, the Christians in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire. The apostle Paul is the book's undisputed author; he wrote the Epistle from Corinth toward the close of his third missionary journey around AD 56. Paul was apparently aware of the challenges Rome presented to the Christians living there. He used this letter to introduce himself to the church in Rome and present the gospel to them.

The church in Rome, at this time, was composed primarily of Jews, but there were a substantial number of gentile converts. Rome was a center of travel, “all roads lead to Rome” is a proverb that possibly originated in medieval times. It simply pointed to the geographical centrality of Rome relative to other cities. This centrality would create a vibrant center of economic, political, philosophical, and religious cross-cultural ideas and lifestyles.

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

Christians in Rome (both Jewish and Gentile): Paul wrote to introduce himself to them and let them know of his plans to visit Rome. He also sought to encourage them in their faith by spelling out the gospel message to clarify belief and understanding among the members. Such would add to their remaining members strong in the faith.

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

Reconciled (v. 10)—Greek: *katallasso*: changed; exchanged; properly, decisively changed, as when two parties reconcile when coming (“changing”) to the same position.

Hope (v.18)—Greek: *elpis*: expectation; Trust; Confidence; Properly, expectation of what is sure (certain).

Tribulations (v. 16)—Greek: *thlipsis*: persecutions; afflictions; distress; “sufferings”(NIV).

VI. *Topical Outline of the Lesson*

1. Introduction
2. Justifications Blessings (Romans 5:1-8)
3. Justifications Security (vv. 9-11)

Food for thought and question for consideration: (What have we learned Charlie Brown?) Our salvation (*being reconciled to God*) is purely due to the work done on Calvary’s cross by Jesus Christ. It was the idea and initiated by God. He loves us and there’s nothing we can do about it.