



International Bible Lessons Commentary

Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series

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Romans 5:6-11 & 8:31-39 New International Version April 23, 2017

The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, April 23, 2017**, is from **Romans 5:6-11 & 8:31-39**. **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** will help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the [International Bible Lessons Commentary](#) website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. You can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the [International Bible Lesson Forum](#).

(Romans 5:6) You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

According to God's perfect timing, Christ died for the ungodly, and Paul has already proved that Jews and Gentiles have behaved in ungodly ways—that includes us today. Because we have behaved in ungodly ways, we are

unable to save ourselves or stand in the presence of God in the right (as righteous or justified) apart from the work of Jesus Christ and faith in Him. We are powerless to make ourselves right with God. God himself began to make us right with Him when Christ died for the ungodly (which includes us) and God completes our justification (makes us right in His sight and just judgement on the Great Day of Judgment) when we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for our sins.

(Romans 5:7) Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.

A “righteous person” in this context is one who appears to be right before the watching world. In their own eyes the Pharisees were “righteous” because of their works according to their laws. Rarely will someone die in the place of someone who lives like the Pharisees acted in their presence. A “good person” is probably one who strives to do good to others or help people in need. Paul wrote that a “good person” might so win the admiration or love of someone that they might be willing to die in their place for them.

(Romans 5:8) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

When God looked (and looks) at sinners (and all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God—Romans 3:23), God does not see righteous and good people because God looks into our hearts. But rather than see us all judged and condemned to eternal death because we have violated God's Law of Love, God has proven His love for us by sending Jesus Christ to die for us—so God could be just when He justifies us. Because we know these facts even while we suffer, we have hope for the future and for the glory of God that we will experience in ever greater measures throughout eternity.

(Romans 5:9) Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

No matter what we feel or what is happening to us or around us, we have the hope, the assurance of God's fulfilled promises and works, that we will be saved from God's just punishment on the Great Day of Judgment (the Day of God's wrath). By grace, Jesus Christ shed His blood as a sacrifice on our behalf and we have been justified and have peace with God now and forever through faith in Him. We know we will be saved on the Great Day of Judgment because God's love has been poured into our hearts and the Holy Spirit has been given to us.

(Romans 5:10) For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been

reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Paul emphasized the benefits of faith in Jesus Christ, and we begin to consciously receive these benefits when we believe in Jesus Christ. We do not trust in our imperfect life and works or what we hope to do in the future, but we trust in the life and works of Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us before we ever repented and began to love and trust in Jesus or our heavenly Father. Since Jesus has done all that Paul has described and even more for us while we were still God's enemies, by His life and work in our lives we have the assurance that He can and will give us eternal life as He promised (see John 3:16).

(Romans 5:11) Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

When we sinned against God and refused to love God and others as we ought, we sinned personally against a personal God (not some distant dictator or potentate who is concerned only for his selfish interests and obedience to his rules). After we rebelled against God and brought disgrace upon ourselves, we could not have an acceptable personal relationship with God because of our true moral guilt. A judge in a courtroom can justify or condemn us impersonally without ever desiring to have a personal, loving relationship with us. But God created us in His image and God loves us and wants to have an eternal

loving personal relationship with us. Therefore, Jesus Christ came into the world to justify, forgive, and pardon guilty sinners; through Jesus Christ God has established a personal, loving relationship between God and us. Jesus prays for us as our High Priest in heaven, God the Father hears and answers His prayers for us, and the Holy Spirit indwells us to comfort and guide us—these are some of the fruits of reconciliation that we have received by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Our reconciliation is with and through the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our justification through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ made our reconciliation possible. Our God and King, the Judge of the universe, wants to have a personal, loving, everlasting relationship with us, and through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ we have become true and lasting friends with God and members of His forever family.

(Romans 8:31) What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Earlier in his Letter to the Romans, Paul wrote, “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God” (Romans 8:14) and “It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16) and “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness” (Romans 8:26). From the written Word of God and the Holy Spirit within us, we know God is for us as our Lord and Savior. Whoever thinks they are against us and who tries to work against us will have whatever they say and do

overruled by God and worked out for our eternal and ultimate good (if not physically in this life, then certainly spiritually and for the next life). We will be glorified as God purposed according to His will in spite of anything ever done to us by anyone or anything or any other being (angel or devil).

(Romans 8:32) He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

To illustrate or prove his point, Paul argued that the greatest gift God could ever give us was His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus Christ up for every believer and He could give us no greater gift. Along with Christ, God has given us everything we need to grow in grace, love, and holiness in this life and throughout eternity. God freely gives us what is best for us and all these things are related to Jesus Christ in some way.

(Romans 8:33) Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

Christians are justified. Now, or if they appear in God's courtroom in the future, God has and will declare Christians to be right with Him, right in the sight of God, right in His Kingdom, and not under any condemnation — all these things and more God will declare because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If anyone ever

dares to bring any charge of being guilty for anything past, present, or future against a Christian, God has already declared them and will declare them in the future, “Not guilty.”

(Romans 8:34) Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

God has not and will not condemn us, nor will God allow anyone to bring a charge against us and condemn us. God will not allow this to ever happen in His Kingdom though it will happen to believers on earth in earthly kingdoms. Christ died to justify believers and He rose again to sit at the right hand of God to advocate and intercede in behalf of believers. The believer has assurance of salvation from the saving work of Jesus Christ in their behalf, from the fact that the indwelling Holy Spirit intercedes and prays for them (Romans 8:26) and from the fact that Jesus Christ intercedes and prays for them from the right hand of God (Romans 8:34). Consider also: “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (Hebrews 7:25-26).

(Romans 8:35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or

persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

God has and will graciously give believers all things in Christ Jesus and believers have the assurance of the love of God and Christ. Believers are heirs of God and Christ, and in this life believers will suffer with Christ and be glorified with Christ (Romans 8:17). Throughout history believers have suffered everything Paul has listed here. Through all of these afflictions, believers may be assured that Christ loves them and will be with them. In his Letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote, “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

(Romans 8:36) As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Paul referred back to the Old Testament to reaffirm that the afflictions of Christians in this life were to be expected (Paul quoted Psalms 44:22). Christians suffer rejection, persecution, and death for the sake of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the same as Jesus suffered for His gospel and our salvation, and as the true prophets in the Old Testament suffered for preaching the truth of God. Christians suffer as sheep that do not fight back because they are powerless to fight back, though Jesus who is all-powerful chose not to fight back when He suffered and died on the cross to save us from our sins. In Old

Testament times perhaps, people did not give much thought to a sheep that was sheared or slaughtered, the same as many today do not give it much thought when Christians are tortured or martyred.

(Romans 8:37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Everything good that we are, have, and will have in the future we enjoy because God loves us and loved us enough to send Jesus Christ into our world to live, die, and live again for us. God's Word and Spirit led us to faith in Jesus Christ. Christ enabled the just and merciful forgiveness of God for our sins. Christ cleansed us of sin and made us fit for the Holy Spirit to live in us. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to live in us and intercede for us. Because of these events of God in Christ for us, and the intercession of Christ and the Holy Spirit for us, we are more than simple conquerors when afflicted or attacked; someday we will be completely prepared by Christ to rule and reign with Him in His Kingdom as complete victors over all of His enemies and ours.

(Romans 8:38) For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

In general, Paul wrote a compelling list of what the followers of Jesus Christ may face with more or less intensity depending on the purposes of God for them. In

death and in life, we might face good angels or evil demons, and these may come to us unexpectedly and in unusual ways, but no power on earth or in heaven can separate us from God in Christ, because God loves us and God is all-powerful and willing to save us.

(Romans 8:39) neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Our future and our security no matter what happens rests in God, and we know God loves us and promises to care for us throughout eternity because of Jesus Christ and what He has done and does for us. His intercession for us is only one of many things Jesus does for us. He is our Lord and the Lord over all creation; therefore, He works all that happens and will happen to us for God's purposes and our benefit — and He will do so forever.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What were we like when Christ died for us?
2. How much of your relationship with God depends on Jesus Christ and His life, death, and resurrection? Give a reason with your answer.
3. What does it mean to you to be justified and glorified?
4. What reason did Paul give for us to believe “that God would graciously give us all things” (Romans 8:32)?

5. Why can no one succeed with God if they bring a charge against us or condemn us as a Christian? Give a reason for your answer.

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly
International Bible Lesson.

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