

Lost and Found 9/13/15

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been **justified** by faith,
we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **we rejoice** in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but **we rejoice** in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured** into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were **still weak**, at the right time **Christ died** for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but **God shows his love** for us in that while we were **still sinners**, **Christ died** for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be **saved** by him **from the wrath** of God. For if while we **were enemies** we were **reconciled** to God by the **death of his Son**, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be **saved** by his life. More than that, **we also rejoice** in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

How did we become lost in the first place?

1. Listened to the great lie- Genesis 3:1-7
2. In rebellion we chose to sin by disobeying God based on our lack of trust
3. We were sent out from the Garden of Eden; therefore we became the "Lost"

In Milton's Paradise Lost, we read an intriguing connection made by Milton between the enemies of God depicted by the wicked fallen angels, of whom Satan was the ring-leader, and his tricking Eve, preying on her vanity and using rhetoric along with Adam's purposeful sin to lead them astray. As such they will become the leaders of a fallen race of men who become "enemies" of God (and apparently winning the great desire of Satan to foul the Paradise created by God for his children to live in perfect relationship with him forever)

Psalm 2 paints the true picture of the absolute rebellion of mankind against even God's chosen Savior
Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against his Anointed

How does Jesus characterize the "Lost" in His own words?
Luke 15- 3 Parables or stories; Lost sheep-Lost Coins-Prodigal Son
Luke 15:4,7,24 tell of God's own true heart towards the "Lost"

The foundational truth from Romans 4 leading up to the glorious statement found in verse 1 of chapter 5

"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"

Going to a land he had never been to assuredly prompting others to say "You will certainly become lost" but in believing God he was never more "found" and made it to the land promised to him and was granted the title of "father of many nations"

In Faith he was justified just as verse 1 says of us who are in Christ

This then is how we who were lost are found- in faith choosing to believe God

We must see ourselves as God sees us-weak-sinners-enemies and throw ourselves upon his mercy and grace which we will only find in Christ leading us to rejoicing and finally perfect reconciliation with God who we are now forever at peace, no longer enemies but even more Romans 8:17
and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

What is this? This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ "The Good News"

We are the lost who have been found—we must tell everyone the Good News that they can be found as well because we are now joined with Christ in His suffering

Hebrews 12:22

Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Will YOU despise the shame of men to lead them to the cross so they may receive peace?