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SERIES: Romans (The Constitution Of Your Faith)

TITLE: Program 20 – The Much More Of Our Justification, Part 2

FRIDAY

OPEN

Have you ever longed for love, a love that was so unconditional, that it would love you no matter what, it would love you no matter where you are and yet it would be a love that in its nurturing would absolutely transform you into all that you ought to be, a love that looks at you and says I will never ever ever let you go? I love you so much that you are mine forever.

PART ONE

We know that the tribulation that we're going through is not a sign that God does not love us but it's a sign that God does love us. It's a sign of the fact that God is preparing you and me for that wonderful hope of glory. So He's going to take us through a refining process. You know when it says in Romans, chapter 5, verse 3, "... not only this, but we also exalt in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance" Warren Weirsbe points out that there was a Latin word for tribulation and it was

tribulum and he said a tribulum in the days of Paul was a piece of heavy wood and it had all these spikes in it and you can even see them when you go to Israel. In fact you ought to go to Israel with us. We go every year and it is one constant Bible study. I mean you and I open the Word of God and you get a New Inductive Study Bible and we just study, study, study. But anyway, you'll see these. You'll see boards with these spikes in them. Now they use nails, but then they had wooden spikes in them. And what they would do is they'd take that heavy board and they'd roll it over the grain after they had taken the grain and beaten it and laid it down on the ground, then they would take this tribulum and they would go over the grain. What would those spikes do? Those spikes would separate the wheat from the chaff. And you see, when you and I see Jesus Christ face to face, when that hope of glory is finally realized and we're in the very presence of God, we don't want to stand there with all that chaff, all that worldly stuff around us. We want it to be gone. We want to be everything that we ought to be for Jesus Christ. We want to stand there having understood the fellowship of His sufferings. We want to stand there having experienced that love that refines us, that love that purifies us, that love that transforms us and that's what love does. So you can know this, Precious One; any time a trial comes into your life, that trial is filtered through God's sovereign fingers of love. It is designed not to destroy you. It is designed to bring out that full potential of godliness, which He has enabled you to have through the Holy Spirit who has been given to you let's go on. And he says in verse 3; I'm going to read it again and I would memorize these. I would just put them on a card and I would read them three times a day. Put them on the refrigerator door. Read them at breakfast. Read them at lunch. Read them at dinner. And if you don't stay home for lunch, then put some in your purse. And it says, "And not only this, we also exalt in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance." Let me just take you very quickly to Job, chapter 6 because I love this verse. It speaks of perseverance. And I don't

know if you've ever read the book of Job, but the trials that he went through were absolutely horrendous trials. And yet this is what he said. This is his perseverance; it's Job 6, verse 10. "But it is still my consolation and I rejoice ...," now listen, "... in unsparing pain, in unsparing pain." His pain was immeasurable. He says, "That I have not denied the words of the Holy One." In other words, I am so secure in God and I am so secure in the love of God and I am so secure in the sovereignty of God, that in by unsparing pain I have persevered. I have not denied the words of the Holy One. It brings about perseverance. But now watch what he says. "... And perseverance, proven character, and proven character, hope." Why? Because listen, it is the transformation of your life, the fact that you are changed, the fact that you are a new creature in Christ Jesus that testifies to the reality, to the genuineness of your justification, of your salvation, of your redemption, of your propitiation, everything that you and I have learned in this wonderful wonderful study of this constitution of our faith, the book of Romans. Awesome, just absolutely awesome. All right now, I want you to go to Job, chapter 23 and verse 10. And I want to read this to you so that you can understand that love knows the trial. Love is there with you in the trial. The trial has been filtered through His sovereign fingers of love. And that trial is not only to bring perseverance so that you keep on rejoicing in unsparing pain and you do not deny the words of the Holy One, but that you come out with this proven character. You come out more like God. So in Job, chapter 23, verse 10, this is what Job says. "But He ...," speaking of God, "... knows the way that I take and when He has tried me ...," listen "... when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." That's His promise to you, Precious One. That's His promise of love to you. The trial is a trial permitted by a sovereign God who loves you so that He can get rid of the chaff, so He can exalt the wheat, so that He can bring you forth as gold, so that you can go for the gold. He says, "... and when He has tried me I shall come forth as gold." That's the proven character that he's talking about. And then he says

proven character; it ends up in hope. It's like a cycle. All right? And that cycle is that you're exalting in the hope of the glory of God. In other words, you know that you're saved. You're looking forward to that day. But you also exalt in tribulations. Here's the tribulations, the tribulum and you exalt in those. And why do you exalt in those? Because those tribulations you're going to persevere in. You're going to endure in. You're going to hang on. You're not going to walk away from God because when you persevere in a trial it shows the reality of your faith. And then that perseverance equals proven character and there you stand proven. You've gone for the gold. And just imagine that Olympic gold hanging around your chest. You've gone for the gold. And then that brings a hope, now listen, that does not disappoint so that when you see Him face to face you don't drop your head in shame, but you have proven it. You have endured sufferings. You have been faithful. You have borne in your body, as Paul says, the brand marks of your salvation. You have persevered because you know that eternal life awaits you and that this is not the end, it is simply the beginning of life eternal. And so you have persevered. And so you have a hope that does not disappoint. Now watch and mark the word love as I read this to you. Put a heart over it and then I color it yellow if it's talking about God's heart. And it says, "and hope does not disappoint." Why does it not disappoint? Because the love of God has been poured out. I mean it is like, if you can just imagine going and standing out like this in this glorious glorious rain and it is just being poured and poured and poured out on you and you are absolutely drenched and you are absolutely soaked and bathed and washed in all of that. It says, "... because hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out ...," where, "... within our hearts ...," How? Now watch, "... through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." What does God do when you get saved? God puts His Holy Spirit within you. Let me show you this in Ephesians, chapter 2, Ephesians 1, excuse me. And what you need to do is you need to remember and mark this on the Holy Spirit. But remember the

progress of what he's saying. He's saying in Ephesians 1:13, "In Him, in Christ, you also after listening to the message of truth, the gospel, the good news of your salvation ...," and that's what we're studying now in the book of Romans. "... having also believed and there's the necessary faith; you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise who is given as a pledge or a guarantee of our inheritance." A guarantee of our inheritance of what? The hope of the glory of God. To the praise of His glory. It's to the praise of his glory. So go back to Romans, chapter 5 and when love is shed abroad in your hearts is when you get saved. So that's why after you get saved, people look at you and they say you are different. You are changed. I mean you have absolutely been transformed. We have a National Women's Convention that we have done here in Chattanooga, Tennessee and we have heard from so many women that their husbands say, go back, go back and it's because some of them got saved. And now the love of God has been shed abroad in their hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to them. And what is the fruit of the Holy Spirit? Galatians 5:22, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace" Now haven't we seen those? There's nine-fold fruit. But we see those first three right here in Romans, chapter 5. Having been justified, what do we have? We have peace with God. We exalt. What is that? That is joy and we have the love of God. We have the love, the joy, the peace. Why? You know love is more than words. Love has to be demonstrated. Love is like an active verb. Well, we're going to see that when we come back after this break. We're going to see, when did God love you? When you were loveable? Oh no.

PART TWO

When did God demonstrate His love to you? When did He demonstrate His love to me? Well Paul wants us to understand that. He wants us to understand the much more of our justification. He wants us to plumb just for a few minutes the height and the breath and the depth of the love of God that

He has for you and for me. So now watch what he's going to say. In Romans, chapter 5, he says, "God sheds His love abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who is given to us." Then in verse 6 it says, "For while we were still helpless." Now there are going to be several "while we were's," so when you're studying the Bible and you're observing the text, the more you read it, the more you're going to learn. It's like at first there's just surface things that you see. But when you become more and more familiar with it as you read it over and over again, Beloved, then other truths start to rise to the surface. And that's the importance of studying the Bible inductively. Inductively means you go straight to the text yourself. And through the skills of observation and interpretation you discover what the Word of God has to say. And you can know it. You don't need a theology degree. You don't need to go to seminary. It's wonderful to be able to do those things. I'm not disparaging them in any way, but you don't need that to know God intimately. You just need to know how to get in the Book and then you need to get in the Book. So get the book out and underline while we were still helpless. It says, "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for ...," whom? "... the ungodly." "While we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly." Now why did Christ die? Christ died because, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." So Christ died because God loves you. And He died for you while you were helpless, while you were ungodly. This is that unconditional love that you're looking for. Because if He loved you then, will He not love you now? If He loved you then when you were separated and alienated, when you were ungodly, would He not love you now? See, if you say, God couldn't love me because of where I've been or what I've done, I want to tell you something; you don't understand God. You have heard the wrong message. You need to get into the Book. So, "While we were still helpless at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man." We've seen those wonderful heroic acts at the time of war and sacrifice and the

sinking of the Titanic when people put others before themselves. And it was hard because they wanted to live. But it says, “For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for a good man some would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love ...,” now you need to mark love again. You need to put a red heart there and color it whatever color you want to. When it’s God’s love, as I told you before I color it yellow. “But God demonstrates His own love towards us.” Now listen to what it’s saying. God demonstrates His love. God has a love that is active. God has a love that is tangible. God has a love that can be seen. God has a love that can be felt. God has a love that’s demonstrable. It says, “But He demonstrates His own love towards us.” How? “In that while we were yet sinners ...,” so there’s another ‘while we were.’ So you want to underline that the same way. In that while we were yet sinners ...,” now watch, “... Christ died for us.” That’s the good news. Christ died for you when you were a sinner, when you were helpless, when you were ungodly, when there was nothing you could do to save yourself. There was nothing that you could do to make yourself lovable. Christ died for you. He says, “Much more than ...,” and that’s why I call this chapter the much more of our justification, “Much more than having now been justified by His blood ...,” and justified, remember, means to be declared righteous, “... having been justified by His blood we shall be saved ...,” Saved from what? “... saved from the wrath of God in Him.” What you have to understand is God is a God of love, but He’s also a God of wrath. In other words, there are parameters. And those that experience His love, those that receive His love, those that benefit from His love are those that follow God’s parameters. And God’s parameter is this that you cannot have forgiveness of sins, justification, be declared righteous apart from Jesus Christ. It’s always salvation through Jesus Christ. So watch what he says, “Much more then having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.” Through Him whom? Through Jesus Christ, only through Jesus Christ. “He’s the way. He’s the truth. He’s the life and no

one comes to the Father but by Him.” Listen you may be the most devout Muslim there is. You may be the most devout Jew there is. You may be the most devout Buddhist there is. You may be the most devout Christian Scientist or Jehovah’s Witness or whatever there is. But I want to tell you that there is no salvation, there is only wrath for you, and at the breaking of God’s heart, if you do not come and believe on Jesus Christ. Believe what? Believe that He is the Son of God, the only Savior, that He is God incarnate in the flesh, that He died for your sins, that He was buried, that He was resurrected on the third day and He is alive right now sitting at the right hand of God ever living to make intercession for you. You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is the Christ, that He is the Messiah, that He is salvation, that He is Yeshua, you must believe that or you cannot be saved. You cannot be saved. And you’ll experience the wrath of God. And listen Precious One, if you are a Jew, salvation was given and the gospel came first to the Jew, but if you reject it and you die without having a change of mind, without repentance, then you’re going to experience the wrath of God. You will perish. So now watch what he says. He says, “But God demonstrates His own love towards us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.” Now let’s go back and verse 6, “While we were helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.” Verse 8, “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” What’s the cure for the problem? It’s Christ died for you. And what is Christ dying for you? It is God loving you. It says, “Much more than having been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God.” Now watch, verse 6, “while we were helpless,” verse 7, “while we were sinners,” verse 10, “While we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more.” Here’s that much more. For if while were enemies we were reconciled to God. Now what does reconciled to God mean? To be reconciled means to be reunited. Oh, Precious One, be reconciled to God.