

Complete and Certain Salvation in Jesus

Message 6 of 6 in the series: "Romans: Christianity 101"

A. In AD 57, Paul wrote a lengthy "Christianity 101" letter to Christians living in the wicked city of ancient Rome to help them fully understand the Good News about Christ.

"For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will **help you grow strong in the Lord**... I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, **to preach the Good News**. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, 'It is through faith that a righteous person has life.'"

Romans 1:11 & 15-17 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! The quality of the Gospel we preach determines the vitality of the disciple that we make. "I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they **understand God's mysterious plan**, which is Christ himself." Colossians 2:2 (NLT)

B. Paul has already explained that Jesus paid the penalty of our sins through His death on the cross, but he also wants us to understand that only by living through the power of the Holy Spirit can we be free from the controlling power of sin.

1. The only way to overcome one power, sin, is to have a greater power, the Holy Spirit. "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, **the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death**. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit." Romans 8:1-4 (NLT)
2. Our minds, not our feelings, determine if we follow the Spirit. "Those who are dominated by the sinful nature **think** about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit **think** about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature **control your mind** leads to death. But letting the Spirit **control your mind** leads to life and peace." Romans 8:5-6 (NLT)
3. In Christ, we already possess freedom from sin, so we do not have to give in to temptation. "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, **you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do**." Romans 8:11-12 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! We can count on His Spirit to help us overcome each temptation. "Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. **My power works best in weakness**.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, **he will show you a way out** so that you can endure." 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)

C. Suffering, the ongoing struggle with the power and presence of sin, is a reality in our lives. However, we can wait patiently and confidently in our sufferings, knowing that God is at work in them until He completely removes the presence of sin.

1. Our salvation from sin will be complete when we each receive our new bodies - glorification. "And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when **God will give us our full rights as his adopted children**, including the new bodies he has promised us. We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it. But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)" Romans 8:23-25 (NLT)
2. The Holy Spirit is working out God's purpose for us during our struggles and sufferings with sin. "And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to

pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

Romans 8:26-28 (NLT)

3. We can be confident that God has the power to fulfill His plan of complete salvation for us. "For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory." Romans 8:29-30 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Slips and stumbles don't remove us from God's protection. "And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see." 1 Peter 1:5 (NLT)

"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when **he adopted you as his own children**. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'" Romans 8:15 (NLT)

D. Like Paul, when we fully consider the wonderful Good News about Jesus, we can be completely convinced of our salvation.

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these?" Romans 8:31a (NLT)

1. God's power makes us victorious over every opponent that seeks to accuse, condemn, and separate us from Christ. "If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us." Romans 8:31b-35 & 37 (NLT)

2. We can have complete confidence and security in our salvation. "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

"And **I am certain** that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! The Good News of Jesus is the power of God that saves everyone who believes. "...And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:8b-9 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. In what ways have you seen a partial or false Gospel negatively impact the spiritual growth of someone?
2. Based upon this series of Romans, how do you understand that Jesus saves us from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and the presence of sin?
3. Read Romans 8:5-6. What role does the mind play in being controlled by the Spirit? How do you set your mind on the things of the Spirit?

4. What difference does it make in knowing that you already possess freedom from sin instead of trying to get free from sin?
5. Read Romans 8:28. How do you reconcile God's promise to work everything for the good with the realities of bad circumstances, suffering, and unanswered prayers?
6. Read Romans 8:37-39. How does this passage give you confidence and security that you will be saved through faith in Christ alone?
7. Discuss the following quote from Voddie Baucham: "All the Gospel requires is repentance and faith. That's it. Nothing else...Well, what about obedience? That's not what the Gospel requires. It's what the Gospel produces."