

“He Was Raised for Our Justification”  
(Romans 4:25)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Today is Easter Sunday, the day we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.
  - a. This isn't entirely true – every Sunday/Lord's Day we celebrate it.
  - b. After all, why is it called the Lord's Day?
  - c. Why has God set it apart for us to rest and worship?
  - d. He wants us to remember the resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - e. The Lord's Table reminds us of His death; the Lord's Day of His resurrection.
  - f. Every week, He wants us to remember.
  - g. But for many Christians, it is remembered only once a year.
  
2. But why does He want us to remember Christ's death and resurrection? Why has He left us these two memorials?
  - a. It's because it's by these we are saved.
  - b. Christ's death paid for our sins, if we are trusting in Jesus this morning.
  - c. Christ's resurrection proved that through His death we were justified, if we are trusting in Jesus this morning, and that we will be raised.
  - d. Christian, these are two things we should never forget.
    - (i) If Jesus hadn't died, we would have.
    - (ii) If Jesus hadn't suffered hell on the cross, we would have forever.
    - (iii) If Jesus hadn't been raised, we would have been raised only to judgment.
    - (iv) This is what Jesus, out of His great love for the Father and for us, did to save us.
    - (v) We can't forget this – we should stare this truth in the face every day and live in the light of it, thanking God for His mercy.
  
  - e. Unbeliever, this is something you need to know about, if you are to be saved.
    - (i) If you don't trust in Jesus, you will die.
    - (ii) If you don't turn to Him in obedient faith, you will suffer endless hell.
    - (iii) If you don't receive Him, you will be raised to judgment and pay the price for every single one of your sins.
    - (iv) If you haven't trusted Jesus, you need to pay attention to these things this morning, for He is your only hope for life.

B. Preview.

1. In Romans 4, Paul tells us about the faith of the father of the faithful: Abraham.
  - a. Abraham was an old man, 100 years old, beyond the time of being able to have a child with his wife.

- b. Sarah was old, about 90, beyond the ability to have a child. They had no children.
  - c. But God promised Abraham that he would have as many children as the stars in the heaven, as the sand by the sea.
  - d. He promised that he would be the father of many nations.
  - e. And what did Abraham do?
    - (i) He didn't look at the physical impossibility of the promise being fulfilled.
    - (ii) He didn't look at the deadness of his own body.
    - (iii) He didn't consider the deadness of Sarah's womb.
    - (iv) But he looked at the promise of God, the faithfulness of God, and believed that what God promised He was able to do.
  - f. And because he believed, because he trusted God, God reckoned it to him as righteousness.
  - g. There is more here – this promise had to do with the seed – with Christ – who would save Abraham. This is the One Abraham looked to in the promise.
  - h. The righteousness that was credited/imputed to Abraham was the righteousness of that seed – Christ's righteousness.
  - i. This is what I want us to see, that it is by trusting in Christ and His righteousness that we are justified/saved.
2. This morning, I want us to consider three things:
- a. If we believe on the Lord Jesus this morning, the death He went through was for us.
  - b. If we believe on the Lord Jesus this morning, His resurrection was our resurrection.
  - c. But thirdly, the kind of belief/faith that savingly takes hold of Christ is a faith that loves Him and trusts Him.

## II. Sermon.

- A. First, Paul says, He “was delivered up because of our transgressions.” The death He went through, He went through for us.
1. First, what did Jesus go through?
- a. He was delivered up: the Faithful was betrayed by one of His own, arrested.
  - b. He was put on trial: the innocent was found guilty.
  - c. He was mocked: the One who spoke righteously was verbally abused.
  - d. He was scourged: the One who came to take away pain was inflicted with pain.
  - e. He was crucified: the blessed One became a curse – cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (Gal. 3:13).
  - f. Most seriously, He suffered hell on the cross: the One who eternally enjoyed heaven suffered hell.
    - (i) Jesus said, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me” (Matt. 27:46)?
    - (ii) Notice, “My God.”
    - (iii) He suffered God's wrath on the cross.

- g. He died: the Lord of life gave up His life.
  - h. He was buried: the resurrection and the life was placed in the tomb and continued under the power of death for three days.
2. Why did One so holy, so pure, so righteous, suffer so much?
- a. The reason was because of/for the sake of our transgressions:
    - (i) The sin we inherited from Adam.
    - (ii) Our own sins, breaking His commandments:
      - (a) Not being and doing what He wanted us to be and do.
      - (b) Doing and being what He doesn't want us to be and do.
      - (c) Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4).
  - b. What are the wages of sin? Death.
    - (i) Every one of us deserves everlasting damnation, but Christ took our place, *if* we are trusting in Him this morning.
    - (ii) We deserved everything Jesus went through:
      - (a) To be mocked, scourged, nailed to a cross.
      - (b) To be put on trial before God's judgment seat.
      - (c) To suffer death and hell for all eternity.
      - (d) But Christ took that punishment and suffering upon Himself.
      - (e) He was delivered up because of *our* transgressions.
- B. Second, Paul says, He "was raised because of our justification." His resurrection was our resurrection.
- 1. He was raised the third day.
    - a. He didn't remain dead/in the tomb.
    - b. On the third day His Father raised Him up.
    - c. Why? For His justification/vindication.
      - (i) This was positive proof that He was who He said and had done what He said.
      - (ii) His work had been accepted by the Father.
  - 2. But He was also raised for our justification.
    - a. His resurrection signaled our justification.
    - b. The Father had accepted Christ's work, which means He had accomplished our salvation.
      - (i) Christ had suffered enough: He paid for the sins He bore; He took them out of the way.
      - (ii) His being raised showed that His Father accepted His payment; He was justified; but He took our place in this – His justification was our justification.
      - (iii) Christ was declared not guilty, we are not guilty.
      - (iv) Christ was raised into heaven, we will be in heaven.
      - (v) Christ is acceptable to the Father; we are acceptable to the Father in Him.

(vi) He was delivered up for our transgressions and raised for our justification.

- C. But finally, the kind of faith that savingly takes hold of Christ is a faith that loves Him and trusts Him.
1. Paul tells us of great blessings; but they are only for those who trust in Christ.
    - a. John writes, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that *whoever believes in Him* should not perish, but have eternal life” (3:16).
    - b. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life *for the sheep*” (John 10:11).
    - c. These blessings are for those who *believe* in Him, for His *sheep*.
  2. How can you know whether you are one of Christ’s sheep?
    - a. Do you believe in Him? Are you trusting in Him? Are you listening to His Word and following Him? Do you love Him?
    - b. Jesus said, “*My sheep hear My voice*, and I know them, *and they follow Me*; and I give eternal life *to them*, and *they shall never perish*; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:27-28).
    - c. He said to the Pharisees, “If God were your Father, *you would love Me*; for I proceeded forth and have come from God” (8:42).
  3. If you want to know that these blessings of salvation are yours this morning, you must turn from your sins, trust in Christ, and follow Him out of love the rest of your life.
    - a. If that is what you are doing, then these blessings are yours - His justification is your justification, you are saved/safe through the death and resurrection of Christ.
    - b. If not, but in your heart you want to trust Him, then trust Him now.
    - c. But if you still can’t find it in your heart to do so, then pray and ask God to change your heart, to put His love in it, so that you can believe and be saved.
    - d. Let’s pray and ask the Lord to apply these truths to us as we need to hear them this morning. Amen.