

## Saved by His Life

I've often turned to **Romans 5:6-11** to remind myself that God sent Jesus to die for me even while I was a sinner. I need to be reminded of that regularly because I can easily think my sins are too great for forgiveness. Yet, even knowing all the sins I would commit, He sent Jesus to die for me anyway. That is great love and I need that love.

However, recently, as I was rereading the passage, something else struck me. **Romans 5:10** says, "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" (ESV). It struck me. By whose life are we going to be saved? By His life. I've been thinking I would be saved by my life.

Certainly, I was lost and to be brought into a saved relationship with God, I had to be forgiven by the blood of Jesus. But from that point on I've acted as if my salvation now depends on my life. Paul changes that paradigm. He explains we are reconciled by Jesus' death and then saved by His life. In fact, His point is that if Jesus died while we were enemies, how much more will He do what is necessary to save us now that we are His friends? In other words, we don't have to spend our days fretting and our nights lying awake wondering if our lives have been good enough to save us. They haven't. But Jesus' life was. His life will save us.

I have no doubt some, upon reading this, may want to abuse the grace of Jesus' life. They may want to use Jesus' life as a license to sin. But that simply leads us back to being enemies with Christ. The great comfort here is not that I get to keep on sinning because of Jesus' life. The great comfort is that I can toss myself into the hands of Jesus and His life will save me from my sins. That is, He will draw me closer to God. He will guide me in the right path. His way works.

Paul went on to say in **Romans 6:1** that his teaching doesn't mean we can simply continue in sin so grace may abound. Grace is not the permission to sin; it is the power to overcome sin. In **Romans 8:28-30**, Paul explained that God is working in us to conform us to the image of Christ. He is doing that. In other words, we will not be saved by our lives; we'll be saved by His life. Faith and surrender to Jesus is how we need to live today because He is working on us and His life will save us.

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