

# Remembrance Sunday

## Romans 5 v 1-11

### Context:

Remembrance Sunday is our annual opportunity to give thanks for those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms, and to reflect on the virtues of self-sacrifice and service as well as the tragic human, social and economic costs of war. Human bravery and selflessness are in some way a pale reflection of the perfect self-sacrificial love of Jesus who said: 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15 v 13) and then went a step beyond that to lay down His life for His *enemies*! Paul the apostle helps us to deepen our understanding and appreciation of this amazing love in today's study in Romans.

### Observation:

1. How are we justified according to the beginning of v 1 (NOTE: the word 'justified' means 'acquitted', 'declared not guilty') and what does this justification result in according to the rest of the verse?
2. What does faith in Jesus give us access to according to the beginning of v 2?
3. What do we rejoice or boast in according to the rest of v 2?
4. What else do we rejoice or glory in according to the beginning of v 3 and why according to the rest of v 3 and v 4?
5. Why does hope not disappoint us or put us to shame according to v 5?
6. What amazing declaration does Paul make in v 6?
7. What is so remarkable about what God/Jesus has done according to v 7-8?
8. What further good news does Paul give us in v 9 and on what does he base this good news in v 10?
9. What else does Paul rejoice or boast about in v 11 and why?

### Meaning:

1. Why do you think we need to be justified - what is our basic problem as human beings with regard to God? - see Romans 3 v 23, Romans 1 v 18-23, Romans 2 v 5-6, Ephesians 2 v 1-3.
2. What different means might people use to obtain justification or acceptance with God? Why does Paul declare that this justification only happens through *faith in our Lord Jesus Christ* (v 1)?
3. Why do you think Paul mentions *grace* in v 2? – see also Ephesians 2 v 4 & 8-9 – and what do you think it means to '*stand*' in this grace (v 2)?
4. '*The hope of the glory of God*' (v 2) means the hope of heaven, the hope that we will one day be with Jesus in His renewed creation, fully reflecting God's perfect glory just as we were meant to at creation. Why should we rejoice or boast about this?
5. Can you share any experiences from your own or someone else's life that testify to the truth of Paul's words in v 3-4?

6. Our hope that we will get to heaven, a hope which begins when we become a Christian and is deepened by suffering, will not let us down or disappoint us. We will make it to the end because God loves us and will keep His promise to us, and we already experience that love now through the gift of the Holy Spirit (v 5). So, what role do you think the *Holy Spirit* plays in bolstering this eternal hope in us? – see also Ephesians 1 v 13b-14, 2 Corinthians 1 v 20-22.
7. Why are v 6-8 such good news? Can you put these verses in your own words in a way that conveys their stunning impact?
8. In v 9-10 Paul looks ahead to the Day of Judgement when God's wrath will be fully revealed against unrepentant sinners (see Romans 2 v 5-6). Why are these verses such good news for us and what is the logic behind them?
9. In what practical ways can we rejoice and boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ (v 11)?

### Application:

1. Do you think much about the future glory that awaits you as a Christian? Do you ever doubt that you will make it? How can this text encourage you in your hope?
2. What does this text teach you about the biblical way to deal with suffering in your life? Why does this often seem so difficult to achieve and how can you handle suffering better in future? – see also 2 Corinthians 4 v 16-18, 2 Corinthians 12 v 7b-10, Romans 8 v 18 & 28.
3. John the apostle writes in 1 John 4 v 9-11 that we ought to love one another in the same way that God loved us by sending Jesus to lay down His life as a sacrifice for us. Remember that we were His enemies when He died for us (v 10) and Jesus commands us to also love *our* enemies (Matthew 5 v 43-48). So, what might all this mean practically in our daily lives? How can we find the resources to love our enemies and be reconciled to them?

### Pray:

- Thank God for the amazing love and grace of God in Jesus.
- Pray for God's grace to be sure about our future hope of glory.
- Pray that you would be empowered to show Christ-like love to others, even your enemies.