

OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Romans 4-7

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What do you think the phrase justification by faith alone means?
- Do you have a hard time accepting that God extends his grace to a particular type of person(s)?

Every human bears a shared struggle with sinfulness, but believers are sinners who are also being sanctified and called into a new life in Christ. The Apostle Paul wants us to remember that God always acts first. He freely gives his grace to us when we are “still sinners” and we respond to him with faith. Remembering that truth helps us to remember that there is nothing *any* of us do that makes us worthy of God’s salvation.

Listen: [*Our New Life in Christ*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discuss the “order of salvation” in segment 1: first, we experience God’s activities of grace, then our keeping of the law/righteous living are signs of what God has already done. Reflect on this. What does it stir up for you?
- Why do you think it was so difficult for Peter to believe that Gentiles didn’t have to first become Jews in order to believe and follow Jesus—even though God gave him a vision about it?
- Do you think we as Christians in the church today expect people to do certain things or be a certain way before they can be part of God’s family of faith? Why or why not?
- At the end of segment 2, Darrell and Scott help us understand how the sacrament of baptism reminds us that we are immersed in Christ—that we are continuously dying (through confession and repentance) and rising (by becoming more Christlike and living within God’s boundaries outlined in the law) with him as well. Reread Romans 7:14-25, which Scott and Darrell unpack in segment 3. How does their explanation of baptism help you address the reality that we still do things that we do not want to do and that evil is always within us?
- What sort of support do you have in place for your journey of sanctification? How might you grow your connection with the family of faith?

Related Passages

- **Acts 10**
- **Isaiah 53**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17**

- **Galatians 3:23-29**

Conclusion

Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Use this verse to meditate on God’s love. Then, think beyond forgiveness and salvation; how else has God demonstrated his love for you? Conclude your time of reflection by writing a prayer of praise and thanks.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/our-new-life-in-christ>

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