

Our New Life in Christ

After Paul writes his summary of the gospel and explains the purpose of God's law, he turns to a very important topic: making sure that the believers in Rome understand just how much God loves them. A truth we can all continue to cling to today. By studying Paul's writing about the implications of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we gain a better understanding of the Christian doctrines of justification and sanctification. We are reminded that we are indeed saved through God's grace and made right with God through our faith alone—nothing we do saves us. Finally, we reflect on Paul's pivotal point: salvation is for *all* people, not just the Jews. Join us in studying Paul's teaching so that we might remember the good news of salvation and glean wisdom for the struggles we experience while we are becoming more Christ-like.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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)?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Our New Life in Christ](#)

READ [Romans 4-7](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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.

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