

Saved by Faith By Bob Young

Introduction

We recognize that this is Paul's topic, but have cause for doubt. Gospel, faith...the words seem to disappear as Paul's thought progresses.

Saved is not only a declared reality, it is a lived reality

We must think of the larger context of NT, (e.g., Eph. 2:5, 8); also larger context of Paul in Romans.

Vine says that Paul's....

"aim in this chapter (6) is to show the inconsistency of continuing in sin after being justified by grace. He makes clear that newness of life and continuance in sin are a contradiction of the new life in Christ. Chapter five constitutes the basis of the teaching of chapter six. Chapter five speaks of the means by which God has bestowed spiritual life, chapter six of how we are to live the life. The leading theme of this chapter is identification with Christ; that is the very essence of the new life. While the keynote of chapter five is "through Christ," that of chapter six is "in Christ."... "In Christ" ([Romans 6:3, 11, 23](#)) suggests that we are in union of life with Him in glory (He is now exalted and glorified), on the ground of what He accomplished on the Cross. Chapter six has another keynote, namely, "unto God." That expresses how the new life is to be lived ([Romans 6:10, 11, 13, 22](#))."

6:1ff: The idea is something like, what conclusion are we to draw from the teaching in Romans 1-5?

Keep the context of Romans in mind as we study Romans 6, 7, 8. In chapters 3-5 Paul focuses on the crucial need for and provision of **justification** by faith through grace ([past tense salvation](#)) but now begins the practical section on **sanctification** ([present tense salvation](#)) which describes saints as saved from the power of sin through the finished work of Christ. Sin in Romans 6-8 is not so much a reference to the guilt of sin (that is dealt with in Romans 1-5) but to sin as a power in the believer's life.

Ray Stedman writes....

"Verses 1-14 of the sixth chapter of Romans are the most important fourteen verses in Scripture, insofar as being delivered from enduring the Christian life to enjoying it is concerned. There is a difference between possessing eternal life, which all Christians have, and possessing that abundant life which the Lord came to give...I saw a sign the other day and it read, "When all else fails, follow directions." That is a good sign to hang over the sixth chapter of Romans." (from his sermon entitled [The Day I Died](#))

The subject is death. Consider word frequencies in Rom 6: sin, 10; life, 11; JC, 19; death, 18; baptism, 3.

1. Salvation by faith means we died to sin, v.1-3

- We were buried with him through baptism into (our) death.
- Jesus' death is mentioned by chap. 2 in all of the gospels.
- This idea of death is difficult, denied, decisive.
- People say Jesus' death was unnecessary, unfortunate, tragic.

2. Salvation by faith means we will live with him, v.4-5

- We will be raised with him, we share his resurrection.

3. Salvation by faith means our allegiances have changed, v. 6

- We experience freedom. We are no longer mastered by sin and death.

This is all summarized in vv. 8-14.

- We now live differently, we live as slaves to righteousness; we partake of the righteousness of God by faith. This is evidenced by our obedience, freedom from sin, changed lives.
- Paul illustrates this changed circumstance by citing the nature of slavery in the culture. We have a new hope, new holiness. This is the gift of God.

Now look at the larger context in Eph. 2:5-8

By grace, through faith; this is God's doing in our lives.

Illustration: bulldozer

- Faith is hooking up.
- Big faith in powerless bulldozer won't work.
- Little faith in powerful bulldozer will work.
- This is about God.
- This is about trusting God, believing God.
- The focus is not on the content of the message but the giver of the message.
- God is God. Let God be God.
- Believe God. Believe his word, even when we can't figure it all out.
- He said it; that settles it.

Come to Christ, be baptized, to partake of his righteousness, justified by faith, and living by faith.