

J.J.

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST
Romans 4:25

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

INTRODUCTION :

A dad was telling his daughter as they were about to go to church on Resurrection Sunday that "Jesus is risen." The daughter looked at his dad and replied, "Will He be at church today?"

We know that our Lord is here because almost 2000 years ago, He has risen from the dead.

Martin Luther Story: There's a story that there was a time that Martin Luther was experiencing a great depression because of all the problems surrounding him – the Pope was after him, he felt the heavy pressure of being a pastor, professor and a father and he had this excruciating pain from kidney stones. For days, nothing could cheer up Martin Luther and his wife Katherine was silent all through this. One time, Katherine came out of the bedroom and she was wearing all black. Luther saw her and asked why she is funeral clothes. Is she going to a funeral? And she said "Yes,". Martin Luther asked, "Who died?", Katherine said, "God is dead." Luther was stunned and rebuked her saying, "What do you mean God is dead? God cannot die." His wife replied, "Well, the way you've been acting lately I was sure God is dead." Luther came to his senses and realized that he was acting as though Jesus is not alive. He then on went to his desk and etched the Latin word, "Vivit" It means "He lives."

So if you're going through trials right now, remind yourself of that Latin word, "Vivit"

We will not go through the story of the resurrection or the reality of the resurrection today. I have several sermons on that that proves that JESUS REALLY ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

Today, we're going to talk about the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ through Romans 4:25

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

We have to remember that the good news is not only based on the death of Jesus Christ. It is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now when it comes to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we may know the importance of death of Jesus Christ and why but most of us wouldn't know why is the resurrection important.

For example : I can ask you,

- **"Do you believe the death of Jesus Christ is important?"** You will say yes. And if I ask you **"Why?"** You would be able to answer that question.
- And then I would ask, **"Do you believe the resurrection of Jesus Christ is important?"** All of you will say "Yes". But if I ask **"Why?"** Most of us will be grasping for answers.

But we have to remember, salvation is not only about the death of Jesus Christ. **It's about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.** You can't take away one from the other.

It's because if Jesus only died on the cross then he only died a martyr's death. He's just like any other good man who died and our sins would have not been paid. As Paul puts it,

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. NLT

That's why we are here worshipping and listening to His Word and why we call Sunday, "The Lord's Day". We'll preach about that next week by God's grace.

That's the reason Paul said in Romans 10 that in order to be saved we need to believe that God raised him from the dead.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Note : If you read the Book of Acts, the good news they were harping on was the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So why is the resurrection important? I'll tell you later.

Let's look at the verse first.

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

A background on this verse,

First, it was said that this is a creed. A creed is something that you recite as something you believe. So the early Christians know about this line by heart.

Example: Remember in our old life, we recite the creed during mass, "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come back again." Or in Catechism class, they asked us to memorize, The Apostles Creed. "I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." That's a creed.

Second, the entire premise before this verse was that Paul was from Romans Chapters 1-3, that

Romans 3: 10 As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

11 there is no one who understands;

there is no one who seeks God.

12 All have turned away,

they have together become worthless;

there is no one who does good,

not even one.

And in Romans Chapter 4, we do not become righteous before God, not because of what we do BUT BECAUSE OF FAITH.

Romans 4: 13 It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

And the same with Abraham, we become righteous before God through faith.

So the question is, faith in what?

Romans 4: 24 but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

IT IS BY BELIEVING THAT JESUS CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SINS AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD THAT WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD.

So today, by God's grace, we'll look at only two words that is connected with the verse we're studying today. PROPITIATION, JUSTIFICATION

I. PROPITIATION

Let me explain first the meaning of the word "propitiation".

It literally means, **"winning back the favor of the person we offended by offering something."**

Illustration: Let's say, a husband made his wife angry because she caught him with another woman. The husband wants to win back the favor of his wife, so he tries to "propitiate" by promising not to cheat again, bringing her flowers everyday, cooking for her everyday, cleaning the house, giving her all his salary and etc... **that's propitiation.**

Remember, when the husband suddenly becomes nice to you, what does the wife usually say? "May ginawa kang kasalanan ano?" (You did something wrong, didn't you?) To the wife, next time, when the husband is extra nice to you, instead of telling them, "you did something wrong, didn't you?" Just tell them. "Are you propitiating?"

He was delivered over to death for our sins

KJV *"He was delivered for our offences"*

Etymology: delivered "paradidomi" - used 120x in the New Testament, and most of it was used to mean to be given over or HANDED OVER to be punished or die

Etymology for sin

The usual two words for sin in Greek is "Hamartema" it means to miss the mark. It means, God is asking us to do something but we did not hit it, we did not do it or we did not do it well enough.

Example: Our Lord commanded to "Love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength." (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27), but do we always do that? Of course, not it means we miss the mark.

The one that is used here is "paraptoma", to trespass, to transgress... God asked us not to do something and yet we still did it...

Biblical Illustration: God said that they can eat all the fruits of the tree in the garden except for the fruit of the tree of knowledge and evil..and yet they still ate it...that's paraptoma.

For example : Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded "Do not worry." In Matthew 6 and when we start to worry, that's already a paraptoma. It's because it shows lack of trust in Him. **Sin is simply not putting our faith in His Word.** (*Romans 14:23*)

THIS MEANS, no one can completely follow God's commands which proves THAT NO ONE IS GOOD, NOT EVEN ONE...IT MEANS WE ARE ALL SINNERS, we all missed the mark, we all offended God.

You might say, really Pastor? Yes.

Water Illustration: If I put just a little bit of poison in a glass of water. Will we still drink it? In fact, we cannot call that water “good”.

That’s why Jesus have to be delivered over to death for our sins?

AGAIN IT’S FOR PROPITIATION...

Crazy story : As we all know, we do crazy things when we were younger. My brother and his friend who is our neighbor was caught by my father sniffing rugby. They found out it was the friend who convinced my brother to do that. My Nanay and the mother (let’s call her Aling Ising) of my brother’s friend were good friends. Of course, now my Nanay was offended. What Aling Ising did is she dragged her own son to our house and with a belt, hit her son in front of my family just to win back her favor. That’s propitiation. Doing something to win back someone’s favor.

In this case, that’s what ALL RELIGION is trying to do. Man is always trying to win God’s favor by doing something... But there’s a problem... let me show you by God’s grace.

- **We have to remember that man (that includes you and me) have sinned against a holy and eternal God.**

Since God is holy, good and just, we need to be punished.

My favorite illustration is that you cannot call a judge “good” if that judge lets a crime go unpunished. So God needed to punish the offender, in this case...man (you and me)

- **The punishment for sin is death.**
Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...
- **Death is eternal separation from God in hell.**

Why man deserves to go to hell even with a seemingly simple sin like lying

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Some of you might say, I’m not a murderer. But Jesus said, if you become angry to another person, we are guilty of murder or if we call them “Fool” (Matthew 5:21-22)

Or someone may say, I’m not sexually immoral. But Jesus said that if you look at a woman lustfully, you already committed adultery therefore you are sexually immoral.

In short, Jesus is saying that we are as guilty as anyone else.

So it doesn’t matter whether it’s a “big” sin or “small” sin, the thing here is we have sinned against thrice holy God.

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

So why hell? The punishment must be equal to the crime committed.

IMPORTANT : it’s not only the ACT of sin. It’s who we sinned against AGAINST.

Illustration : In Virginia, if you punch, assault another person, it's a Class 1 misdemeanor which carries a maximum jail time of 1 year and maximum fine of \$2500. You can fix this out of court. But if you punch/assault a police officer, it becomes now a Class 6 felony which means a "mandatory" required minimum jail sentence of 6 months and you can spend up to 5 years in prison. Imagine if you punch the governor of Virginia or the prime minister of Canada, the punishment will be higher.

But when we sinned, we did not only punch the prime minister but the "Holy, Holy, Holy God who is Almighty and Eternal."

Joseph Parker, a contemporary of Charles Spurgeon said
Quote : Sin is a clenched fist and a blow in the face of God.

That's why the only punishment it deserves is eternal condemnation in the lake of fire.

Illustration : I remember that video I watched when R.C. Sproul was in a panel and was asked, "Since God is slow to anger and patient then why is his punishment for sin so severe and long lasting." R.C. Sproul has to answer, "This creature from the dirt defied the everlasting holy God a day after that God said of it the day you shall eat of it, you shall surely die." And yet still God has shown him mercy and even promised a Saviour... and then he said to the audience.... "What's wrong with you people?" And said, "This is what's wrong with the Christian church today! We don't know who God is and we don't know who we are."

NOW God is not only Holy and Just God, He is also a God full of loving kindness and compassion.

In short, though we deserve to go to hell, He loves mankind so much that he doesn't want us to suffer the pains of hell.

And here is where the holy tension is. He needs to punish sin because He is Holy, Good and Just and if He doesn't punish sin, we can't call Him Holy, Good and Just. BUT again, He loves us and He doesn't want us to go to hell.

The answer : To APPEASE His Holiness and His love, then somebody else needs to be punished on our behalf.

- It cannot be just another man because his own death will only pay for His own sins because that man is also a sinner.
- It cannot be God because God cannot die.

His answer : He sent His own Son Jesus Christ to become man to take the punishment, to die on our behalf.

Since Jesus is God who became man, He can now die on behalf of man because He is sinless and eternal.

That's why on Good Friday, our Lord was crucified at 9 in the morning but from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., there was total darkness and..

Matthew 27: 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

What was happening? GOD WAS POURING OUT HIS WRATH ON SIN ON HIS SON! So instead of us getting His wrath, it was His Son who got God's wrath on sin.

That's why the last word of Jesus Christ on the cross is "It is finished" as discussed in our Bible study last Friday.

John 19:30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Etymology : The Greek word for this is "Tetelestai". What does this mean?

Archaeologists found a piece of papyrus with a bunch of list on it and the word "Tetelestai" written across it. They investigated what that list is and found out it's a list of debt. So "tetelestai" means, "Paid."

When Jesus Christ said "It is finished.", He is saying, "Our sins have already been paid" GOD IS PROPITIATED.

IN SHORT, GOD WAS PROPITIATING FOR OUR SINS THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST! OR OFFERING HIS OWN SON JESUS CHRIST BECAUSE HE KNOWS WE CANNOT PAY THE DEBT AGAINST HIM SO HE GAVE HIS SON AS THE PAYMENT FOR OUR SIN.

For what reason? LOVE...CRAZY LOVE. Now we know..

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave His one and Only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Which now brings us to the resurrection of Christ that completes our salvation.

II. JUSTIFICATION

and was raised to life for our justification

Reading this verse, the first question naturally that comes into our mind is "What is justification?" We all know the Sunday school term "Just as if I have not sinned". It's cute but it doesn't capture the whole essence of what justification means.

Remember, the death of Jesus Christ paid for our sins. In short, it brought us forgiveness.

Hebrews 9:22 fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Illustration : It's just like saying to someone, in the Filipino colloquial language "Quits na tayo". Ok, you're forgiven. We're cool. In short, in the Philippines, "inareglo" na ng Panginoon." (Our Lord has already settled our debts to God our Father)

Forgiveness is saying, "I won't bring any charges anymore. I won't punish you anymore because My Son already took the punishment." ... I'm already appeased.

IMPORTANT : BUT THAT ONLY TAKES YOU HALFWAY. IT ONLY TAKES US TO A NEUTRAL ZONE WITH GOD..

And that's what the death of Jesus Christ did.

Illustration : There is such a thing called Presidential Pardon. Presidential Pardon restores a person to the state of innocence they had before they committed a crime. In short, the sin has been forgiven and you are released from the jail sentence. **But it doesn't mean if the president pardoned, it doesn't mean you now have a close relationship with the President.** In short, you experienced mercy.

Biblical Illustration : You remember the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32? The son got his inheritance and in the time of Jesus, it's just like saying to your father, "I just wish you were dead." Then he went out to the countryside, lived a life of rebellion and then came into desperation and said, *Luke 15: 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.*

What was he looking for? **He was only looking for forgiveness.** But when he came back, here's what happened. The Bible tells the story well.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

BUT Look at what the father did.

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate

The son was only looking for forgiveness but the father was yearning to restore the relationship. And he did.

Quote : GOD ISN'T ONLY LOOKING TO FORGIVE US BUT WANTS TO RECONCILE WITH US AND BE PART OF OUR LIVES.

Illustration : One time, a member of the church got their car stolen right in front of their eyes while they were warming it up in the driveway. The thieves were caught but they did not bother to press charges anymore. That's forgiveness. But what if they say to that person, "Come to my house anytime because I now consider you as part of my family." And that's what God did.

That's what justification is all about. That person hasn't done anything to deserve forgiveness, let alone be part of part family and eat at their house. But that's what God did for us through Christ's resurrection. **But how did it happen?**

You know the word "justify".

For example : I love how Ptr. Christopher Shipster illustration of this.

- If you are applying for a job, you bring a resume. That resume has a list of credentials is "justifying" you that you are worthy for that position.
- Or if you want to join a basketball team, you go on a try-out, the try-out is trying to "justify" to the coach that you are worthy to be part of the team.
- Or you are entering a university, you forward your grades to the university, the grades are trying to show that you are worthy to be part of the university.

This is how the world functions. We are always trying to show the people why we are worthy of the job, their friendship, their love, to be part of a team and etc.

And when we come to God that's what we also do. We try to prove to Him that we are worthy of Him by bringing our own resume'. They say that I am good, I am charitable, I am moral and etc. But that doesn't cut it because the Bible says,

In short, no matter how impressive our resume is of goodness, morality and etc....it still doesn't make us worthy to be friends before God.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Quote : We are keenly aware that we need to repent of our sins, but do you know that you are also called to repent of your righteousness - Christopher Shipster

So the question is, how do we become worthy to have a relationship with God?

ANSWER : It's not our own resume' we bring. We bring the resume' of Jesus Christ. Why?

Kicker : It's because when God raised Jesus from the dead, it is God saying to our Lord, "I approve of what you have done in BEHALF OF MEN"

Quote : The resurrection is God's "Amen" to our Lord's "It is finished."

Since God has raised Jesus from the dead, His death brought us forgiveness but His resurrection gave us His righteousness – which means "worthiness".

Quote : **To be justified or justification before God means we are now worthy to stand before Him.** We are now worthy to call Him Father, not because of our own resume' but because of what His Son did for us.

This is what it means to be justified.

Note : We often pray, "Lord I am not worthy" But don't stop there and say, "Father, I thank You for Your Son Jesus Christ who is my Lord and Saviour, it's because of Him I am worthy to be called your child. I am worthy to stand in front of you and love you and have a relationship with you."

That's why we call Grace... Amazing!

Story : There's a story about a boy whose name was Ben Hooper. Ben Hooper was an illegitimate child. She was born of a woman who had a reputation of "sleeping" around with men. So when people see him, they would be teasing him and saying, "Hey, you look like the child of the bartender." Or "Hey you look like the son of the barber." Or "Hey you look like the mailman." And they will be snickering. But Ben loves attending church. The Word of God preached by the pastor resonates with him but whenever he attends church, he sneaks at the back and before the service is over, while they were singing, he quietly leaves the church so he won't get those looks from the people. But one time, after the service, while he was sneaking to get out again, the pastor caught him and said hi to him. And the pastor's words to him were like this... "Hey, you look like..." Ben's reactions would be "Here we go again, even the pastor is going to mock him." And the pastor said, "Hey, you look like a child of God." That moment in Ben Hooper's life helped shaped him and grew up to become a respected man and later a two-term governor of Tennessee.

Yes,

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Our Lord's death brought us forgiveness and our Lord's resurrection made us worthy and approved before God. We are holy, blameless and righteous before God's eyes because of His Son Jesus Christ.

ALL HONOR AND GLORY BELONGS TO HIM.

S.G.D.