

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

*Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's
anger
through him.*

Romans 5: 5 - 11

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans
Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.
Romans 5:17 - 21

If, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Let us walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3 – 4, 8 - 9 (Short version)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that death has no power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Let us walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3 – 9 (Long version)

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that death has no power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans
We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:14 - 23

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans
Who can ever come between us and the love of Christ?
Romans 8:31b – 35, 37 - 39

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who did not spare his own Son but
handed him over for us all, how will he
not also give us everything else along
with him? Who will bring a charge
against God's chosen ones? It is God
who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is
Jesus Christ who died, rather, was raised,
who also is at the right hand of God, who
indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of
Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the
sword? No, in all these things we conquer
overwhelmingly through him who loved
us.

For I am convinced that neither
death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor present
things, nor future things, nor powers, nor
height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to
separate us from the
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 14:7 – 9, 10b - 12

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then each of us shall give an account of himself to God.

The Word of The Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:51 - 57

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when that which *is* corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then

the word that is written shall come about:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through the

Lord

Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**A Reading from the Second
Letter of Paul to Timothy**

*As for me, I am already being
poured out as a libation and the
time for my departure has come.*

2 Timothy 4:6 – 8

As for me, I am already being
poured out as a libation, and the
time for my departure has come. I
have fought the good fight, I have
finished the race, I have kept the
faith. From now on there is
reserved for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the
righteous judge, will give me on
that day, and not only to me but
also to all who have longed for his
appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:13 -5:1

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving

to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not

to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We have an everlasting home in heaven.

2 Corinthians 5:1, 6 - 10

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense,

according
to what he did in the body, whether good
or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We shall stay with the Lord for ever.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18

We do not want you to be unaware,
brothers and sisters, about those who
have fallen asleep, so that you may not
grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,

so too will God, through Jesus, bring
with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on
the word of the Lord, that we who are
alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will surely not precede those who
have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself,
with a word of command, with the voice
of an archangel and with the trumpet of
God, will come down from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we
who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up together with them in the
clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus
we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console
one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

2 Timothy 2:8 - 13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:

If we have died with him
we shall also live with him;
if we persevere
we shall also reign with him.

But if we deny him
he will deny us.

If we are unfaithful
he remains faithful,
for he cannot deny himself.

The Word of the Lord.

A Reading from the First Letter of John

We shall see God as he really is.

1 John 3:1 - 2

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like

him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.