

Date: 09.08.2020

Time: 11am

Service taken by: Rev Gavino Fioretti

Reading: Romans 7:7-8:11

Text: Romans 8:2-11

Outline: Remarkable salvation

a) Introduction

1. Its starting point

2. Its trinitarian origin

3. Its progressive nature

4. Its radical completeness

Remarkable salvation

- **Introduction**

A remarkable book: The letter to Romans is a remarkable, life-transforming letter. This is because of its content and focus on the gospel of God. It has a special place in the church's history and in our own lives.

A remarkable chapter: There is so much doctrine, content and encouragement in this chapter. There is so much about the Holy Spirit's role in our salvation. There's so much about the law, so much about Christ, so much about the order of salvation, so much about the love of God, so much about the salvation of God. In these verses, we see how remarkable the salvation we enjoy is. Our salvation is indeed remarkable.

1) Its starting point

We look at who we were and what we were saved from.

Without power: The place where God found us was a place without power. The law couldn't save us because it was weakened by our flesh. Even when there is a desire in us to do what is right, we cannot do it because of our lack of power, because of our weakness. God has saved us from a position of powerlessness. God came to us in our weakness.

Without Spirit: God found us in a place without the Spirit of God in us; we were spiritually dead. Left to our own flesh, there was no transformation. Our minds were hostile to God and we could not please Him by walking in the Spirit. God came to us when we were hostile to Him, without any

goodness in us to lead us to Him. The only way of transformation is by the Spirit of God leading us to God.

Without freedom: We were under sin. We had a fleshly mind, so could only work according to the flesh. We couldn't live lives according to God's will to satisfy God's law. We couldn't please God, we weren't free to obey Him or please Him. We were enslaved by sin.

Without will: Our will is in bondage – it's bound by our fleshly mind. We're enslaved by sin. Because the Spirit of God was not in us, what our will desired was what is against God. We are saved by grace alone – left to ourselves we are unable and unwilling to do what is good. Left to ourselves, we are Hell-deserving sinners.

Our salvation is remarkable because of our starting point. God has begun an amazing change in our lives. The old has gone, the new is here.

2) Its trinitarian origin

We need to believe in the triune God to be saved. It is sad how little understanding we have of the triune God or how little we think of God being the triune God, even in terms of our salvation. Our salvation involves the three who work as one.

The Father: We are saved because the Father sent the Son and the Father condemned sin in the flesh in Jesus. It's not that Jesus saved us despite the Father – the Father sent the Son. The Father is involved in our salvation; He didn't need to be persuaded – He has the same desire for our salvation. He condemned sin through His Son.

The Son: The Father sent the Son, but the Son was willing to come and pay the price for sin in His own flesh. He came and obeyed the Father. Jesus came to accomplish all that was required – that meant death (the consequence of sin) and a perfect life (that would be imputed to us). He lived the life we could not live and came into the world with the purpose to die for sinners. He knew that He lived to die, so that others would live through Him.

The Spirit: As reformed people, we often neglect the Spirit's role in our salvation. The Holy Spirit sets us free, as does the Son. The Spirit of Christ has set us free from the law, and delivered us from the influence and power of sin and death. The Spirit sets our minds towards things that are spiritual. By His reassuring presence, He declares that we belong to Christ. The Spirit of Christ is working and saving us from sin and death. The Spirit's sanctifying influence changes us.

Our salvation is remarkable because it is the work of the triune God. All three persons play a vital part in our salvation. The Son depended on the Spirit and constantly committed Himself to the Father. The triune God who made the heavens and the earth saved us; our worship should be to the triune God.

3) Its progressive nature

We often think of salvation as a past event, as a one-off event with eternal blessing. Salvation is something that is going on and continuing.

What God has done: There are aspects of salvation in the past – the work of God in sending the Son, the accomplishment of our salvation and redemption, the condemnation of sin, declaring us righteous in Jesus, He has dealt with our guilt.

What God is doing: When we don't see as much as we'd like in us, we doubt the work of God in us and we doubt that we are saved. But salvation is not finished yet; it's under the influence of God the Spirit. Every day, God is saving us. Sin remains in us and besets us. There remain elements of hostility in us and disobedience to Him. But God is still graciously and mercifully saving us today. He's bringing us to life that we might live unto righteousness. God is still at work. He works with us all in a different way. The Spirit of God is still saving us.

What God will do: If you have the Spirit of God in you, you have that guarantee that you will be raised from the dead. You will be free from all that is evil. Justification is deliverance from the consequence of sin. Sanctification is deliverance from the power of sin. Glorification is the final stage of the believer – God will deliver us from the presence of sin. Our salvation is remarkable because the best is yet to come.

4) Its radical completeness

Sin is condemned: Everything that accuses us is condemned. Our sin has been condemned, not in us, but in Christ. There's now no condemnation, not because we're blind to it but because Jesus took it.

The law is fulfilled: Jesus has fulfilled God's law on our behalf. We never glorify, love or obey God in the way He deserves. But Jesus glorified, obeyed and loved God on our behalf. He fulfilled all of God's requirements. We can stand before God in Christ's righteousness.

A new life is granted: We were in the flesh living to please it before the Spirit of God was in us. But the Spirit of God purifies us, changes us and makes us more like Christ. Our desires have changed. By God's Spirit, we love righteousness and hate sin. God's Spirit empowers and changes us in our minds and in our actions.

God is pleased: Before, we were at war with God. Now, we can please God because of Christ. We are different and behave differently.

Death is defeated: God, in Christ, has defeated death. We'll be free from all sin and death in eternity. We'll enjoy the blessing, the presence and the kingdom of God because of His salvation.

When we remember where we were, where we are today and where we will be, we realise that our salvation is remarkable. God's salvation will change your life, not just now, but for all eternity.