

## **In step with Jesus 170**

**September 21, 2025**

**Key Text: And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Mathew 18:1-4)**

### **Introduction**

Last week we finished reading Romans chapter 5. The key message from that chapter is that the grace available to us is much more than the sins we have committed because Jesus Christ made excess payment for the penalty of our sins. By one man’s sin, all humanity were dead in sin but by one man’s righteousness, God justified everyone. Justification was not just for the Jews who were the custodians of the law of God but for everyone because sin was in the world before God gave the law at Sinai. But the greatest news of all is that He who gave His own life to reconcile us to God will do more to save us from the power of sin and the wrath of God. If Christ has justified us by His own blood, He is much more willing to sanctify us by His new life. This message of God’s willingness to help us overcome sin is the crust of Pauls message in Romans chapter 6. Let us read Romans chapter 6 verses 1 to 14 and see what we can learn about the purpose of our justification.

### **Romans 6: 1-14**

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body; to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present

yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

## **Reflections**

The text we read is Paul's exposition of the purpose of our justification in Christ. He is simply saying that Jesus did not die for us to continue in sin. Rather, He justified us to walk in the newness of life. We are no longer to allow sin to reign over or dominate us, but we are to submit ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness. Referring to the rite of baptism, Paul explains how the new life experience works. He explains that baptism signifies that we have died to sin, buried with Christ, and resurrected into a new life. It means that we are born again in Christ and have received the opportunity to start our lives again. Just like little children, we start growing in Christ and God enrolls us in the school of Christ.

As we enrol in the School of Christ, God, through the Holy spirit becomes our teacher, our examiner, and judge. Nobody else has the right to judge our progress in the school of Christ, not even ourselves. While we should examine ourselves, we must only trust God's score card for us. However, as in every school, we must commit to attending our classes, that is, study the word of God, and obey the instructions of our teacher. If we fail, He gives us another chance to repeat and get better. He monitors our growth, and He celebrates every success with us, just the way every successful teacher will do. In the school of Christ, the only real failures are those who drop out. As long as we remain in that school, we shall overcome sin and unrighteousness.

This may sound too good to be real in an unforgiving world where people carry the scars and the condemnation of their past mistakes for life. But the promise is true. God has justified us. We are no longer slaves to sin. We may make mistakes in our growth process, but those mistakes are nothing more than the fall of a child who is learning to walk. A child who is learning to walk can fall. The child may cry. The child may be afraid. But the child eventually overcomes and tries again. Jesus invites us to study children. All who will enter the kingdom of God must be like children. Ready to learn, ready to trust, and ready to start again. This is good news. This is the gospel. This is the science of salvation. God is good, and we are His people. Praise the Lord.