

March 20, 2010

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-11

"Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24)

Considerable time and energy is spent seeking the attention of others. Not just children, but adults of all ages act in ways that cry out, "look at me" or "pay attention to me."

Human beings seem driven to prove their existence and establish their worth to themselves, to others, and even to God. Not only are we driven to justify our actions, but we also justify our existence. This drive leads us to many wonderful activities and we work hard to make a mark in the world. But it is also a burden.

It is a burden because no matter what we do or how hard we work, we cannot justify ourselves to God.

It is only when we stop trying so hard, and surrender ourselves to God that we discover God's grace. Because Christ died for us, "while we were still sinners," we no longer have to try to prove ourselves to anyone, especially God. Then we discover that God's grace sets us free to live confidently and faithfully knowing that we have God's full attention.

Today, consider the difference between proving yourselves to God and receiving God's grace. How might your life be different if you no longer have to prove how good or smart or holy or worthy you are?

In prayer, receive God's grace and experience the freedom you have to live as a child of God, resting in the assurance of God's love.

Pray for pastors, musicians, worship leaders, Sunday School teachers, nursery workers, and everyone else who serves God through the church on Sundays. Pray that everyone who attends worship services tomorrow will hear the Good News and experience God's grace and love.