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Jesus Included Me

Romans 15:7-13

INTRO: Jesus included me. I am counted as one of His own; He loves me. He called me by the Gospel, and He saved me by His grace. The God of creation showed mercy upon this poor wretched sinner, and I am grateful!

He Included Me

"I am so happy in Christ today,  
That I go singing along my way;  
Yes, I'm so happy to know and say,  
"Jesus included me too."

Refrain:

Jesus included me, Yes, He included me.  
When the Lord said, "Whosoever," He included me.  
Jesus included me; Yes, He included me.  
When the Lord said, "Whosoever," He included me.

What a blessing, I am able to rejoice with his people (vs 10).

Because of this great blessing of inclusion with that blood bought through may we as believers, the included ones, be kind and loving and inclusive to each other.

I. VS 7, AN APPEAL TO ACCEPT

1. Paul appeals to the Jews and Gentiles in the church at Rome to receive one another.
  1. Those who are weak, and those who are strong are to be one local body united in Christ's love.
  2. Yes, there are many differences but there is only one Christ Jesus "and the bond of unity is a common loyalty to him" (Barclay 198).
2. "Receive" is the Greek word *proslambano* meaning to receive something or someone to oneself with special concern.
  1. Sometimes when we love someone and are concerned about them, we will call them aside to help them. This is what happened in Acts 18:24-28.
    1. Apollos was a man with great zeal; yet he needed instruction.
    2. In love and concern, Aquila and Priscilla "took [*proslambano*] him unto them" and explained more clearly the way of God.
    3. We should thank God for those who are willing to teach and those who are willing to learn.
  2. Paul encouraged Philemon to loving "receive [*proslambano*] Onesimus the runaway slave (Philemon 17). We need to treat each other with love and understanding.

3. We are to receive each other “as Christ also received us to the glory of God.”
  1. Christ received us as unworthy as we are and that’s how we are to receive each other (Eph 4:32-5:2).
  2. God demonstrated His love to us when we were unlovely. Let us demonstrate love when folks are not what they ought to be (Rom 5:8).
  3. Christ received us to the glory of God (John 6:37-38).
    1. Our salvation is to the glory of God (Eph 1:4-7, 12).
    2. It is to the glory of God that we have been accepted in the beloved (Eph 1:6). It brings glory to God when we accept each other.

## II VSS 8-12, JEWS AND GENTILES INCLUDED BY GRACE

1. In these verses, Paul uses passages from the Old Testament to show that God’s plan is the salvation of Jews and Gentiles.
  1. Yes, the Gospel is to the Jew first, but it also to the Greek (Rom 1;16).
  2. Paul begins the book of Romans by emphasizing the fact that the Gospel is to be proclaimed to all nations (Rom 1:1-5).
  3. Jews and Gentiles are justified the same way (Rom 3:28-30).
2. Vs 8, Christ came to the Jews first (the circumcision) (Matt 15:24).
  1. “For the truth of God.”
    1. He fulfilled the law by His perfect keeping of it (Matt 5:17).
    2. He came to authenticate the Word of God concerning Himself.
    3. Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises of salvation.
    4. He is the fulfillment of the types and shadows.
  2. The promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are fulfilled in Christ.
    1. Abraham told Isaac that “God will provide himself a lamb” for the sacrifice.
    2. John the Baptist declared, “Behold the lamb of God....”
3. Vs 9, The Gentiles had no promises, no commitments; and thus they were without hope (Eph 2:11-14).
  1. Newell says: “Upon Israel’s rejection of their Messiah, mercy, sovereign mercy, flows out to us Gentiles: and for this we glorify God, for that is the purpose of this mercy that God may be glorified” (525).
  2. The same kind of mercy that God showed to Abraham in calling him out of the Ur of the Chaldees, is the mercy that believing Gentiles receive (Micah 7:19-20).
  3. Salvation is by the grace and mercy of God.
    1. Eph 2:8-9.
    2. Titus 3:5.
  4. Psalm 18:49 is quoted in this verse.
4. Vs 10, Our salvation is to the glory of God. Because of this, we rejoice with His people (Deut 32:43).
  1. “His people” means Israel.
  2. Thank God, Gentiles are grafted in and made vessels of mercy (Rom 9:23-26).
5. Vs 11, What wonderful words we find in verses 10-11. “Rejoice, Praise, loud.”
  1. Sounds like a happy, joyous people!
  2. To God be the glory great things He hath done.

6. Vs 12, Paul quotes from Isaiah 9:6-7. This is a look forward to the millennium.
  1. Blessed is the Gentile who learns to place his trust in Christ (Eph 1:12).
  2. Root of Jesse refers to the seed of David which refers to Christ.
    1. Because Christ is alive, we have hope.
    2. II Timothy 2:8.

### III VS 13, WHAT WE HAVE AS BELIEVERS

1. Hope.
  1. Do not despair, we have hope. There was a time when we were without hope, a time when we were alienated not now!
  2. Someone has said: "There are no hopeless situations; there are only men who have grown hopeless about them."
  3. Christ is alive we have hope! In the midst of trials, heartaches, and sorrow, remember the risen Christ in coming again to receive us (I Thes 4:16-18). There is hope.
2. Joy
  1. The child of God has joy unspeakable and full of glory.
  2. Happenings affect our happiness, but joy is not based on happenings. Joy is from God.
  3. Our joy is real because Christ is real and lives in us.
  4. The fact that nothing can separate us from the love of God brings joy.
3. Peace.
  1. There is peace in the midst of our storm tossed lives.
    1. We are troubled, but we have peace.
    2. There is tension; yet we have a source of peace.
  2. When we have the Prince of Peace, we can know peace.
4. Power.
  1. We have power to live right power to glorify Christ in our living. "I can do all things through Christ..."
  2. Gal 2:20; II Cor 5:17.

CONCLUSION: Praise God for His mercy to sinners.