

## **Romans 5**

### **Peace and Reconciliation**

We have been reading our way through Paul's letter to the Romans. Like letters of the day, it has a introduction where we would write 'Dear Romans...' and an epilogue where we would write 'yours sincerely...' in the manner of the day all sorts of messages were attached as sending a letter was an expensive business.

But the centre of the letter is an exposition of the Good News of Jesus. And a practical explanation of how to live the life of faith. That's what makes this letter so valuable to us. And we have been looking at the Good News or 'Gospel' bit of the letter. Here is a detailed map of the letter:

# Outline of Romans

<b><u>Introduction</u></b>	<b>1:1-17</b>
a. Greeting	1:1-7
b. Paul's relationship to the Romans	1:8-15
c. The theme of the Gospel	1:16-17

## **The Gospel – the righteousness of God 1:18-11:36**

### **1. God's wrath, judgement and man's sin revealed 1:18-3:20**

a. The progression of sin	1:18-32
b. Justice	2:1-16
c. The Jew – no partiality	2:17-3:8
d. Universal condemnation	3:9-20

### **2. The way of righteousness through faith 3:21-5:21**

a. Righteousness apart from the Law	3:21-31
b. Abraham – an example	4:1-25
c. The blessings which accompany justification	5:1-11
d. By one man death and by one man life.	5:12-21

### **3. The way of Holiness 6:1-8:39**

a. Freedom from sin	6:1-23
b. Freedom from Law	7:1-25
c. Freedom from death	8:1-39

#### **4. The outworking of the gospel in relation to Israel**

##### **9:1-11:36**

- a. Paul's concern 9:1-5
- b. The call of God 9:6-29
- c. The word of faith 9:30-10:21
- d. The mystery of God's faithfulness 11:1-32
- e. Hymn of adoration 11:33-36

#### **Christian life-style.**

#### **12:1-15:13**

##### **1. The living sacrifice**

**12:1-2**

##### **2. Christian practices**

**12:3-13:14**

- a. The communal life of Christians 12:3-8
- b. The personal practices of the renewed mind  
12:9-13
- c. The Christian in relation to others 12:14-21
- d. The Christian and the State. 13:1-7
- e. Love and Duty 13:8-10
- f. The Christian in crisis times 13:11-14

##### **3. Christian liberty and Christian love**

**14:1-15:6**

- a. Conscience and liberty 14:1-9
- b. Conscience, liberty and love in relation to  
others. 14:10-15:6

##### **4. The Christian and the Gentile**

**15:7-13**

## **Epilogue**

**15:14-16:27**

- a. Paul's Mission 15:14-21
- b. Paul's plans for Rome and Spain 15:22-29
- c. A call for prayer on Paul's behalf 15:30-33
- d. Pheobe. 16:1-2
- e. Individual greetings 16:3-16
- f. An appeal 16:17-20
- g. Greetings from Paul's mates 16:21-23
- h. Final message 16:24-27

The opening phrase “Having been justified therefore by faith” is a brief summary of chapters 1-4 where we have seen we are all sinners, whether Jew or Gentile, and therefore doomed. There is no way we can be put right with God (Justified) we will fail whatever rule book we try to follow. But God instead makes a way for us to be put right with him by grace through faith. Romans 3: 23-24 puts this succinctly:

*There is no difference,<sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.<sup>25</sup> God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.*

Jesus is the substitute in our place in regard to punishment and his life is what powers us to have eternal life.

The key verse of Romans that is the theme of this letter is Romans 1:16<sup>16</sup> *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation*

*of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

In chapter 5 we move on from the how – by grace through faith – to what it means to live by faith.

1. We have peace which enables us to endure suffering and have hope vv1-5
2. We understand what it means that Christ died for us. vv 6-11
3. And we understand that salvation is the opposite to sin. vv 12-21

Next week, in Romans 6 we discover that living by faith is battling with temptation, being dead to sin.

The following week in Romans 7-8 we discover that living by faith is living in the Spirit.

And we round up this series with the later bit of Romans 8 which reminds us of the security and living by faith, Jesus has the victory, God is no longer to be feared for punishment, he is for us and will never let us go. Living by faith is secure and victorious.

We have peace which enables us to endure suffering and have hope vv1-5

So lets start at verse 1

The first thing to observe is the tense of the verbs. They are past tenses. They refer to things which have happened.

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

If you have turned from your sins, repented of them and asked God to grant you salvation through the death of his Son, Jesus, then you have been justified by your faith, you have peace, you have obtained access to grace. These are not wishful thoughts or aspirations, they are certainties based on the promised of God. There is no way you can please God by your own efforts, Jesus has provided the way through his death for you to have it as a free gift to be received by faith. If you have put your faith in Jesus, you have salvation. There is no more trying to satisfy the law or the rituals or whatever, you have been justified, you have peace you have obtained grace. The Muslim has to answer questions when he dies, the Hindu hopes to be reincarnated to a higher life form, The Buddhist seeks to obtain Nirvana, and so on. But in Jesus there is nothing further you have to do to obtain

your salvation. When Jesus cried out “It has been finished” on the cross, he meant your salvation is fully atoned for, you have been justified, you have peace and you have obtained grace. So you can stand before God, grateful but no longer guilty, welcomed and not rejected, and so much more.

So what do we have?

### **We have Peace with God.**

Jesus said this to his disciples in John 14:27

“ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” The world offers a fragile peace based on your feelings, your environment, your ambitions. If you are distressed or in difficult circumstances or frustrated you have no peace. Jesus offers peace on the basis of grace. Peace with God. The security that it is not how you feel or the circumstances you are in, or your ambitions but a security that NOTHING can extract you from your Father’s hand. Isaac Watts wrote a hymn that put it this way.

Should all the hosts of death,  
And powers of hell unknown,  
Put their most dreadful forms  
Of rage and mischief on,  
I shall be safe, for Christ displays  
Superior power, and guardian grace.

### **We stand by grace before God**

A Christian has to stand in two ways. First before

God, the second is with God.  
Here we stand before God. How?  
through whom we have gained access by faith into  
this grace in which we now stand.  
Faith is the access code to heaven. There is no  
evidence of Peter checking you into heaven. The  
gates of the city of God are fixed open. The  
righteous may enter freely. The unrighteous cannot  
enter at all. That is because the unrighteous are not  
made of the stuff of heaven. But we are sinners how do  
we become righteous? The answer to that is the cross  
of Jesus. Jesus is the only righteous person in his own  
right but he sacrificed himself on the cross for our sin.  
When we receive Jesus by faith, we are made righteous  
because he has taken the punishment for our sin, he  
has reconciled us to God so that we have peace with  
God. Faith receives grace and God's grace enables  
you to not only enter heaven but to stand in the  
presence of God, not fearful because faith tells us you  
are loved and saved, and you are a child of God.

### **We rejoice in the hope**

We are called to rejoice in the hope of the glory of  
God. Here is a challenge, how often do you rejoice in  
the hope of the glory of God? So turn to someone near  
you and tell them that your hope of salvation is  
great – the best thing that is happening to you!  
Be careful though, that you boast in grace. You  
have not earned it, but you have received it by faith.  
You may prefer me to skip verses 3-4 but it would not  
be right to do so.

*3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Peace with God does not ensure peace with the world around us, far from it. Christians suffer for their faith. But to get to hope faith has to endure suffering. That is the process. We don't like it but it is necessary for our character development and our hope to be based firmly in God not circumstances.

*<sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

This is a great verse and worth meditating on. You may be mocked for being a Christian but you have no need to be ashamed. You are safe because you have peace with God, you stand righteous before God, you have hope and God sees your suffering and is applauding your faith under fire.

The Holy Spirit does much more than delivering power and guidance. Here God's love is poured in through the Holy Spirit. When you open your heart to God, the Holy Spirit pours in God's love. You want to know the love of God, Ask to be immersed in his Holy Spirit. Reflect on the wonder of God's grace and allow the Holy Spirit to fill you up with God's love so that it comes out of your very being.

We understand what it means that Christ died for us.  
vv 6-12

### **How?**

*<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

If that is not enough that Jesus died for me, read on!

Listen to the repeated ‘how much more’

*<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

The best way to make sense of this is to realise that having received by grace justification, redemption, atonement, reconciliation, we can go forward to experience it all the more. I would love to dwell on the meaning of each of those words - justification, redemption, atonement, reconciliation – but time does not permit us. so I will put it briefly.

If you have put your faith in Jesus then you have been saved from the wrath of God because through the death of Jesus you have been justified made just as if I'd never sinned. Your sin has to be dealt with and Jesus does it all by offering himself to atone for your sins. When you were an enemy God reached out to you and brought you into his family, you are reconciled, you are a friend of God, even more you are a child of God. So we boast in God. How do we do that? Several ways. First by telling him how great he is whenever we meet with him. Secondly by meeting up together and praising him to one another. Thirdly by boasting about what God has done to our friends. The best worship we can bring is when we tell others the good news and tell what God has done for us.

The logic of this letter moves on.

And we understand that salvation is the opposite to sin.  
vv 12-21

First a history lesson about sin. We all ready have been told that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Now we are reminded or told that sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden. You can read about it in Genesis 3.

<sup>12</sup>*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned –*

The second bit of history is that God gave the Law to Moses on Sinai – we best know the 10 commandments

bit of that. You can read that in Exodus 19-20 and on through to the end of Deuteronomy. But Paul points out that

*<sup>13</sup> before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.*

*<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.*

So sin is not breaking the law but the law points out our sin. Sin is not being in complete harmony with God.

*<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

*<sup>16</sup> Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.*

*<sup>18</sup> Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for*

*all men. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

*<sup>20</sup> The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

In this passage Adam and Jesus are compared. You were born a son of Adam, when you accepted Christ as Saviour and Lord you became a child of God. As a human you have a life in the flesh, as a follower of Jesus you have a life in the Spirit.

And these are compared.

Adam	Jesus
Adam brought sin into the world	Jesus brought Grace and peace into the world
Adam's sin brought judgement	Jesus death brought justification
Adam's sin brought death	Grace brought righteousness and life
Adam infected many by disobedience	Jesus 'disinfects' us by his obedience in dying on the cross.
The law increased our awareness of sin	Grace increases to bring freedom from condemnation
Sin reigns in death	Grace reigns in eternal life

So God's answer to sin was

<sup>8</sup> *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:*

*While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Your answer is to accept God's salvation by faith and receive it by grace, or you could reject it and continue, as a human to be without peace, without righteousness, without hope and without joy. Whose are the options.

So to summarise , what does Jesus bring to us? lets finish with verses 1-2.

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*