

# **The Book of Romans**

## **LESSON FIVE**

### **“Benefits of Justification by Faith”**

Martin Luther said of Romans, chapter five, *“In the whole Bible there is hardly another chapter which can equal this triumphant text.”* In this chapter, Paul, having proved to his readers that salvation comes only through being justified by the gift of God’s grace, through faith, now goes on to explain the wonderful **benefits** this gift of God’s grace has given us.

1. **Romans 5:1** says, **“Therefore (because of) having been justified by faith...”** What is the **first benefit** Paul tells us in this verse that we have received?
2. The peace Paul speaks of here is a peace **with** God, not the peace **of** God, spoken about in other Scriptures. Before we came to Christ, we were enemies of God because of our rebellion against Him. Our sinful nature was at war with Him. Now, having been justified by faith in Christ and in His sacrifice for us on the cross, we have peace **with God**. This peace is only obtained through what Jesus did for us. His sacrifice satisfied God’s justice towards us, making the way for us to be at peace with Him. There is no other way for us to be at peace with God outside of Christ. Look up and record **Ephesians 2:14** below.
3. **Ephesians 2:14** says that **Jesus IS our peace**. He is the One who has accomplished this peace with God for us. What does **Colossians 1:21 & 22** say about this?
4. Write down the second benefit Paul says we have been given, found in the first part of **Romans 5:2**.

5. “Through Whom (*Christ*) we have **access** by faith...” God has been made “accessible” to us. We can approach Him at any time. We have access because we don’t come on our own, Christ comes with us. We come into the Father’s presence, on the arm of Christ, as His betrothed. What does the rest of the verse tell us about our “**standing**” before God? What does Paul say we’re “**standing in**?”
  
6. In a relationship, we might ask someone, “Where do I stand with you?” **Verse 2** tells us we stand in **God’s grace**. He has given us **His favor**, and we have a permanent standing in His favor. **Adam Clarke** states, “**And this access to God, or introduction to the Divine presence, is to be considered a lasting privilege. We are not brought to God for the purpose of an interview, but to remain with him; to be his household; and by faith, to behold his face, and walk in the light of his countenance.**” What does the very end of **verse 2** say the **result is** of this peace with God and access to Him that we’ve been given?
  
7. Just as our **standing** and our **access** to God is a permanent condition, the word **rejoice** here also implies a permanent condition. The meaning is to rejoice and to keep on rejoicing. Commentator **Leon Morris** calls this “**a triumphant, rejoicing confidence.**” Paul says we are to rejoice in “**hope.**” **J.B. Philipps** translates hope as “*happy certainty.*” What does Paul say here that our hope is in? (Remember, I am using the NKJV).
  
8. What do the following verses tell us about this glorious hope?

**2 Corinthians 3:18 -**

**Colossians 1:27 -**

**Colossians 3:4 -**

9. While we have a hope (*a happy certainty*) in the eternal glory we will share with Christ, this hope and this glory is not only for eternity, but it applies to the present as well. What does Paul tell us that we are also to “glory in,” found in the first part of **Romans 5:3**?
  
10. What reason does he give in the **second part of this verse**, along with **verse 4**, for us to “glory in” these things? Write down his reasons below.
  
11. What does **2 Corinthians 4:17 & 18** add to this exhortation? Look up those verses and record them below.
  
12. Paul tells us in **Romans 5:5** that this hope of God’s glory, and the work that tribulations and trials produce in us, is not a disappointing hope. **Albert Barns** states that, “**The Christian hope is such that it will be fulfilled; it will not disappoint; what we hope for we shall certainly obtain.**” What does Paul say is the proof of this, according to the remainder of **Romans, chapter 5, verse 5**?
  
13. **The Bible Knowledge Commentary** says, “**The reason this hope (resulting finally from affliction) does not disappoint is that God has poured out His love into our hearts. God’s love, so abundant in believer’s hearts, encourages them on in their hope.**” While it is certainly true that God pours His love for others into our hearts, the love of God that Paul is talking about in this context, is not so much a love for others as it is an awareness of **God’s love for us**. It is the realization, given to us by the Holy Spirit, that we are loved by God and we can trust in His love, regardless of our tribulations and the trials of this life. Look up and write down the familiar passage of **Romans 8:35-39** below.

14. **David Guzik**, commenting on **Romans 5:5**, says that, “**Every Christian should have some experience of this, to have a deep inner awareness of God’s love for us.**” Paul spoke of this love to the Ephesian church in **Ephesians 3:17-19**. Speaking of his prayer for them, record his words to that church below.
15. Paul will go on in **Romans 5:6-8** to lay out the **proof** of God’s love for us. Write down the proofs Paul gives us in each of these verses.
- Verse 6 -
- Verse 7 -
- Verse 8 -
16. In **Romans 5:9**, Paul states, “Much more then...” (or *even more than this*). Write down the “much more” Paul speaks of in this verse.
17. What assurance does **1 Thessalonians 5:9** give us of this? Record it below.
18. In **Romans 5:10 & 11**, Paul speaks of the love of God toward us while we were **still enemies** against Him. If He demonstrated such sacrificial love towards us while we were in that condition, how much more shall He do for us now that we are reconciled to Him? This is further reason for us to trust in God’s love for us. His love continues its saving work in us and He will see it to completion. Prayerfully read Peter’s words in **1 Peter 1:3-9**. Record from each verse the powerful truths that confirm God’s love for us.

**Verse 3 -**

**Verse 4 -**

**Verse 5 -**

**Verse 6 -**

**Verse 7 -**

**Verse 8 -**

**Verse 9 -**

19. In **Romans 5:12**, Paul now points the reader to the origins of sin. Write down his statement in **verse 12** below.
  
20. There is something here that is doctrinally important for us to take note of. Paul validates in this verse, and the verses following, that the account of **Genesis, chapter three, is historically true**. Note also, that the responsibility for bringing sin into the world, which defiled all of humanity, is placed directly on **Adam**, not Eve. Look up and record **1 Timothy 2:14**.
  
21. Eve sinned because she was deceived, but Adam was not. Adam sinned with **full knowledge of what he was doing**, and so he is responsible for the fall of the whole of mankind, who came after him. Paul goes on to speak more about man's fall and the curse of sin. Record **Romans 5:13 & 14**.

**Verse 13** may be a bit confusing. What exactly is Paul saying here? He states that sin was in the world before the law. We know that the penalty of sin is death, so Paul confirms the presence of sin in the world before any law was given in his statement at the beginning of **verse 14**. The word **transgression** is a word that means “stepping over the line” or the disobedience of a direct command. Paul is saying that while sin was in the world from the beginning of Adam’s first sin, and its penalty of death was experienced by Adam and all who were born after him, those sins couldn’t be judged as “transgressions” until the law was given. Remember, the **purpose** of the law was to show mankind how sinful sin really was, and how much they needed a Savior to redeem them from their sinful condition.

Paul goes on to state in the middle of verse 14, that all mankind are sinners, even if they haven’t sinned in exactly the same way as Adam did.

22. Looking at the end of **verse 14**, what does Paul call Adam?

**David Guzik** states, “**Paul presents Adam as a type - a picture, a representation - of Jesus. Both Adam and Jesus were completely sinless men from the beginning, and both of them did things that had consequences for *all* mankind.**”

23. In the remainder of this chapter, Paul will show the **contrasts** between Adam and Christ. Record the first contrast Paul speaks of in **verse 15**.

24. Adam’s sin brought death. Christ’s sacrificial death brought the gift of God’s grace. Record the second contrast Paul names in **verse 16**.

25. Paul points out that judgement, resulting in condemnation, came from Adam’s sin, but justification was the free gift that came from Christ. Record the third contrast Paul states in **verse 17**.

26. The consequence of Adam's sin brought death to all mankind, but through Jesus, *those who receive* the abundance of grace and gift of righteousness that Jesus offers us, will reign in life. Write down **verse 18** below.
27. Paul makes the contrast here of what resulted from one man's offense, compared to what resulted from one Man's righteous act. Condemnation from one and justification from the Other (Jesus Christ). Write down Paul's final conclusion in **verse 19**.
28. What does Paul tell us in **verse 20** that adds to this?

**David Guzik** comments on this verse, **"If sin abounded under the law, then grace abounded much more under Jesus. Literally, the phrase abounded much more means "super-abounded." God makes His grace *super-abound* over abounding sin!"**

29. Looking at **verse 21**, record Paul's final, glorious words of this chapter.

**Wherever grace rules, God's righteous standard will be respected. The legalist's fear is that the reign of grace will provide wicked hearts with a license to sin, but Scripture doesn't share that fear. Grace does not accommodate sin, it faces it squarely and goes above sin in order to conquer it. Grace does not wink at unrighteousness, it confronts sin with the atonement at the cross and the victory won at the open tomb. (David Guzik)**

- 30.** What is most meaningful to your heart that you are you taking away from chapter five in our study of Romans?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2026

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