



Epistle to The Romans



Lesson 6: Romans 5 The Sequence to Maturity

Review

In Chapter 3 we learned about God's Greatest Problem. In Chapter 4 Abraham and David speak to Israel about God's Greatest Gift. Chapter 4 also demonstrated the unity of the Old and New Testament together, how Abraham was saved before the Law, and how David was saved (under the Law).

In Chapter 4, Paul presented several irrefutable reasons why justification is by faith: 1) Since justification is a gift, it cannot be earned by works (vv. 1-8); 2) Since Abraham was justified before he was circumcised, circumcision has no relationship to justification (vv. 9-12); 3) Abraham was justified centuries before the Law, so justification is not based on the Law (vv. 13-17); and 4) Abraham was justified because of faith in God, not because of his works (vv. 18-25).

An eternal home is waiting for those who have trusted Christ. Now in **Romans 5** the question Paul will answer is: What about the here and now?

Read Romans 5 verse 1

Three Kinds of Peace

- † World Peace
- † Tranquility of the soul: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you (Jn 14:27)."
- † Peace with God: "the peace that passeth all understanding (Phil 4:7)."



Paul is talking about the third type of peace. Peace with God that comes through an intimate relationship with him. A believer is not responsible for having peace in the sense of making it but in the sense of enjoying it. We didn't make it, God did. Many don't have peace with God because they don't claim it through faith. "...My peace I give to you, not as the world giveth... (Jn 14:27)." In fact, it is the only way to have peace with God is through faith.

Read Romans 5 verse 2

Who gives us that access to God by faith? _____

"Access" here means privilege of approach. "Through whom we have obtained access" It is the perfect sense in the past, with results that continue on, i.e... nothing changes it. We have access to approach the throne.

"wherein we stand" means to go on standing (present tense, continuing on).

“in grace” => exciting! In a condition [legal position], before God that we can never earn or merit. Remember from the last lesson, attempting to earn Grace is a form of rejection of the intent of the giver. Cf. Rom 11:6.

Col 2:6: *As you have therefore received (once and for all) so walk [continue on walking] in Him (present tense, continuously) so keep on walking in Him.*

How have you received Him? **Read Ephesians 2:8, 9!** We are stripped of any contribution. We contribute zero, even our faith comes from him. Why would God bother? **Read Ephesians 2:7!** God is demonstrating ultimate infinite love. How do you continue? Galatians answers the question of how then shall we live? By faith (Hab 2:4).

He is always the key; He is “the hope of glory” (Col 1:27; cf. Rom 8:17-30; 2 Cor 4:17; Col 3:4; 2 Thess 2:14; Heb 2:10; 1 Pet 5:1, 10). Even rejoice in sufferings? (Cf. James 1:2).

The Process of Maturity (a sequence)

Read Romans 5 verse 3

“glory” means to exalt or “leap for joy” (present, continuing, tense).

“tribulation” here means a pressing, pressing together, pressure; thus, oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits; distress that is brought about difficult circumstances. How can we rejoice in that? Feeling that you are no longer close to God? Who moved?

“Knowing” means to perceive, notice, discern, discover... that which produces patience [perseverance.] (Cf. Rom 15:5-6; James 1:3-4.)

Read Romans 5 verse 4

“experience” means a proven character; a proof, a specimen of tried worth.

...[keeps on] producing character, and character keeps on producing hope. This is more than mere stoic endurance of troubles (toughing it through), even though endurance or steadfastness is the first result in a chain-reaction outgrowth from distress. This is spiritual glorying in afflictions because of having come to know that the end product of this chain reaction (that begins with distress) is hope.

Just like flabby couch potatoes... “No pain, no gain!” (Cf. 2 Cor 6:1-10)...by much endurance or perseverance, to persist in spite of difficulties; to keep on in keeping on. We are looking forward like distance runners.



Proven character permanent; etched qualities of moral commitment, dependability; permanent qualities. Self-discipline; fortitude; trustworthy. The Christians moral fiber comes from proven character. The highest form highest form of maturity we can example is hope! Confidence in the future over the present or faith aimed at future things!

He who has no hope in the future frets under the least circumstances. The Christian should have joy in difficult circumstances and troubles! Difficulties are used by God to develop proven character.

John Peterson (one of the principal partners of the famed leading design firm of Koechel-Peterson) expressed it this way: “If you squeeze a lemon, you get lemon juice. If you squeeze an orange, you get orange juice. If you squeeze a Christian, you should get Christ.”

Why do Christians Have Trials?

1. To glorify God (Dan 3:16-18, 24-25).
2. Discipline for known sin (Heb 12:5-11; James 4:17; Rom 14:23; 1 Jn 1:9).
3. To prevent us from falling into sin (1 Pet 4:1-2).
4. To keep us from Pride. Paul kept from pride by his “thorn in the flesh.” (2 Cor 12:7-10). Was it his eyes? (Gal 4:15; 6:11).
5. To build faith (1 Pet 1:6-7).
6. To cause growth (Rom 5:3-5).
7. To teach obedience and discipline (Acts 9:15-16; Phil 4:11-13).
8. To equip us to comfort others (2 Cor 1:3-4).
9. To prove the reality of Christ in us (2 Cor 4:7-11).
10. For testimony to the angels (Job 1:8; Eph 3:8-11; 1 Pet 1:12).



Thus, leads to **James 1:2-4**

The Process of Maturity Recap

- † Highest form of maturity = Hope! Confidence in the future over the present; faith aimed at future things!
- † He who lacks hope in the future frets over the least circumstances...fretting and frustrations demonstrate a lack of perspective! Don't sweat the small stuff.
- † You should have joy in difficult circumstances and troubles! Difficulties are used by God to develop proven character.

The Logic of His Love

Read Romans 5 verse 5

“Ashamed” means disappoint; “put to shame because of disappointment” in unfulfilled promises... (A reflection of Psalm 25:3, 20-21 (cf. Ps 22:5; Rom 9:33; 1 Pet 2:6).

Love of God implies the ability to comprehend the love that He has for us.

“poured out” keep on, continuously; “was given” once and for all.

This ministry of the Holy Spirit is related to His presence in believers as the seal of God (Eph 4:30) and as the earnest or down payment of their inheritance in glory (2 Cor 1:21-22; Eph 1:13-14). Each believer has the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9) and he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Jn 3:24; 4:13). If you are a believe He is indwelling, you even if there is not much evidence of it.

There is a shake up coming; we need to have our priorities straight; not with our eyes on the world. Persecution historically has always been a catalyst for Christian growth. Pressures should lead to exaltation as our character grows. The complacency and the apathy that has characterized the Church, especially in America, is going to evaporate before our eyes as the

true Church (body of Christ) gets stronger as darkness increases. As things change some individuals will be awoken and searching for answers. God is calling us to give them those answers.

We are to have Hope because of the certainty about God's promises of the future.

Read Romans 5 verse 6

God died for all men for He is not willing that anyone should perish but all come to repentance. There is no limited atonement. "For" is to explain the logic of how great that love is. Substantiated by the kind of people he died for; the underserving and helpless (without strength).

"helpless" = where you can do nothing to help yourself; nothing.

"ungodly" = incompatible;

"in due [the right] time," according to God's plan and timing.

Read Romans 5 verse 7

Rarely is there anyone who deserves to be died for. More folks won't volunteer for that kind of thing. Yet for a good man some may dare to die and have; such as our soldiers, etc... Contrast with human thinking; to show the highest expression of human love and God's love.

Is there someone that you would die for? Or turning it around, is there anyone that would die for you? (that might make the number even smaller!)

Read Romans 5 verse 8

Christ died for us before we were a good guy. "Commendeth" here means, demonstrates prove in action. "While sinners" mean to defiantly rebel against, with scorn.

"The Much Mores..."

Read Romans 5 verse 9

This is the first of the "much more's."

We do not want God's wrath. What can be more than this fact [his blood] already? Justified means to be declared as righteous as God! This overshadows anything that you may have done! (Ties this to v.1)

How then can one be ever, once saved, be lost? "Through Him," not us. We are secure in His faithfulness, not ours. There are many people around that say we must preserve our salvation, or it will be lost. Those individuals do not understand the Pauline definition of salvation. If you are saved, you are born again. How can you become, unborn? You are saved through him, not us. To say that you have lost your salvation is to say the Christ lost you. We are secure because of His faithfulness, not ours. We can't put the trust in ourselves to get it right or we would fail.

Read Romans 5 verse 10

“Reconciled” means to restore to a relationship by the removal of barriers; it is man that is reconciled to God. Religion is man’s attempt to reconcile himself to God; He can’t. Remember, at Gethsemane Jesus prayed if there be any other way let’s take that one. Ultimately, Jesus said, “not my will by Thy will be done.” Think about it...If there was some other way to be reconciled to God, then God did not answer Jesus’ prayer. He died down here to save us; He lives up yonder to keep us saved, If we are able to lose our salvation or there is salvation in any other means, God has lost something more than just my salvation, He has lost integrity. I don’t think He is about to do that.



This great triumvirate:

- ✝ Redemption (3:24; 1 Cor 1:30; Gal 3:13; Eph 1:7); Redemption pertains to sin (Rom 3:24)
- ✝ Propitiation (Rom 3:25; 1 Jn 2:2; 4:10; propitiation (or satisfaction) pertains to God (3:25),
- ✝ Reconciliation (Rom 5:10-11; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Col 1:22)— reconciliation is for us

These three are totally the work of God, accomplished through the death of Jesus Christ.

The phrase “Delivered daily” in verse 10 is accomplished by Christ [Cf. Heb 7:25] How long are we saved? As long as He lives.

The word “Enemies!” (Rom 8:7; James 4:4) another one of four descriptive words Paul uses to describe us, helpless, ungodly, sinners, enemies. Again, would you die for people like that? Would our society die for anything? That’s our problem...

If God loved you enough in that condition, what about now that you are his child (Jn 1:12)? How then can one be lost after having been saved?

Here is a key point. There are many voices in the world today that will try to confuse you on this subject. Out of this logic comes the only correct motivation for living for God:

NOT Fear, commonly used today this leads to a bonfire made of wood, hay, stubble. Obscure verses out of context... “Yes, but-ers”; i.e., Phil 2:12, 13.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Philippians 2:12, 13

The term “Fear” used here is an ancient term for respect, awe. Work out means to work out on the outside something that is already on the inside! Cf. v.13! For it is God who is at work in you.

Read Romans 5 verse 11

“Have received” means a finished work, done deal. Paid in full.

The remainder of this chapter can be labeled “potential sanctification.” You may find this difficult to understand and difficult to accept.

Sanctification?

Justification does not make a person righteous. It means that before God's holy court, a lost sinner is now declared righteous, but his heart may not have been changed yet. This is hard for us to related to.

God not only has a plan in salvation whereby He not only declares a sinner righteous (phase 1), but He is also going to make a sinner righteous (phase 2). One gets you to first base, and the other gets you home. That is, God provides a way that a sinner may grow in grace and become sanctified (set apart) for God.

You are in a process between salvation and being with Him. Some grow more than others. There are different rewards that are given in Heaven. Some get in just by the skin of their teeth and other have high positions.

Two Heads: Adam and Christ

From Romans 5:12 to Chapter 8 is discusses what makes that union with Christ absolutely, irrevocably, ours because of Him. These verses contrast with our descent from Adam and our present union with Christ. Imputation through Union. Impute means to ascribe, to account to you something that was true of another.

Read Romans 5 verse 12

There were two exceptions of people not dying: Enoch and Elijah—one a Gentile and one a Jew.

We Are Sinners Four Ways

- 1) We are sinners because we commit acts of sin.
- 2) We are sinners by nature (sin doesn't make us sinners, but we sin because we have that nature). He is not horse thief because he stole a horse, he stole a horse because he is a horse thief.
- 3) We are in the state of sin. God has declared the entire human family under sin.
- 4) You and I are also sinners by imputation. That is, Adam acted for the human race because he was the head of it. We inherit his mistakes.

Read Romans 5 verses 13 & 14

Why did people die from Adam to Moses? Mankind did not die for their personal sin; they died because of Adam's sin being imputed to them.

Adam had rejected God's warning: "Dying you shall surely die" (2 deaths: Jude 1:12; Rev 2:11; 20:6,14; 21:8). First, the separation of the soul from the body (physical death). Second, the separation of the spirit and the soul.



At the instant of rejection, Adam violated God's word, at the very center of his being spiritually. It began a process and we are after the image of a fallen Adam. Death from Adam on is undeniable. **1 Tim 2:13, 14** Adam was not deceived. Adam loved Eve so much that he chose to join her in her predicament rather than go on without her!

Not condoning Adam's sin, but without his fall there would be no need for a redeemer.

Contrast with the Last Adam

Paul refers to Christ as the Last Adam. He uses the phraseology to show that Christ is the head of a new line. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creature.

Read Romans 5 verse 15

Two opposing sources and results accordingly.

Read Romans 5 verses 16 & 17

(Verse 17 closes the parentheses which began at verse 13.) Our predicament derived from one man; our salvation is the result of one man, Christ. Our salvation depends on Him, not on anything we can, or ever could, do...

In the one case people are dying victims under a ruthless ruler (Satan); in the other they themselves become the rulers (cf. Rev 1:6) whose kingdom is one of life!

The fact that it is "those who receive" God's grace and gift emphasizes the provision made for all in Christ's sacrificial death and offered to all by God, yet it must be appropriated by an individual by faith to become effective (cf. "received" in Jn 1:12). If someone gives you a million dollar check it is useless unless you cash it. Saving the uncashed check does not good. A prisoner on death row who is pardoned has to accept it. There have been cases where prisoners on death row refused pardons by choice. That is our role, we can choose to refuse Christ's gift of eternal life.

Read Romans 5 verse 18

"Cheap grace?" No, it cost God greatly to make it free to us! [The Gospel is "not according to man" (Gal 1:11).]

Read Romans 5 verse 19

They are not simply declared righteous (the verb for impute is not used here), but they will "be made righteous" in the process of sanctification, culminating in glorification in God's presence. The word "made" means "stand constituted as," and is the same verb used in the first half of verse 19 in the words "were made sinners."

We sin because we are sinners. ("He wasn't a horse thief because he stole a horse. He stole a horse because he's a horse thief!") Did you ever have to teach a child to be bad?

By the obedience of One (not many): Christ. New nature (2 Cor 5:17). [Cf. 1 Cor 5:1-5: turned over "in order that" his spirit may be saved... Cf. 1 Cor 15:20-22.]

[Chapter 6 will develop this verse in glorious terms! Chapters 6, 7 & 8: all that we have in our union in Christ. All we have to do is to count them true...]

