

The Christian Manual: Study 6, Romans 5:1-11

Romans Studies for Teens by Mike Apodaca, MA



Begin with prayer for wisdom from God and for the presence of the Spirit.

Note: In a Bible Study, as much as possible ask the questions and let the students answer. Where they cannot, you supply the answer and keep everything flowing.

Introduction: What is the result of grace?

Chapter 5 PEACE!

Section 1: Romans 5:1-2a What the therefore is there for?

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

One of the fundamental ways of thinking is cause and effect. Our brains are wired to understand that things that appear before us had a cause, and that every cause will have an effect.

Paul just explained that from all eternity God had planned a way to Him apart from the law and personal righteousness. God knew that non-Jews would fail in their personal ethics and that Jews would fail before the Law. Because of this, He planned different way to union with Him, one that does not depend on our performance. This new way completely depends on the performance of Christ. Jesus' death and resurrection has provided all men with a way to God. Abraham is our supreme example of this. He came to God through faith before he was circumcised.

The effect of this to those who have had faith in Christ is that we now have peace with God. The word peace comes from the Hebrew concept of Shalom, or completeness. When a wall was built and all the pieces came together, it was thought to be complete. There is closure. When we have faith and receive grace we are in completeness, in unity with God.

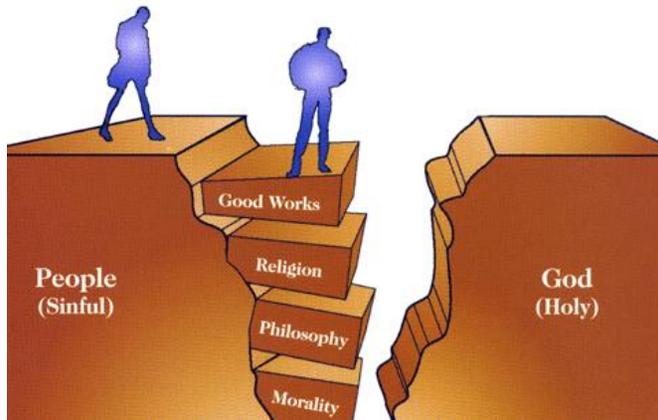
To understand this, we need to look at where we were before this grace. Before we knew Christ, we were enemies of God (Colossians 1:21) and separated from Him (Isaiah 59:1-2. 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Matthew 25:41, Mark 16:16). Imagine this. God created man to be in relationship with Him. This is where we find our meaning and purpose. It is the relationship that makes us completely human. Without this we lose our identity and purpose. We are truly lost. Without this relationship man stumbles and bumbles around trying to replace God with other things that they believe will satisfy them and bring them meaning. They invent other gods, pour themselves

into causes, dive into their work and accomplishments, and look for satisfaction in other people. When this doesn't work, they give up and suffer depression and intense unresolved guilt. They might turn to drugs or alcohol, or other addictions. They may harden their hearts and deaden themselves so that they don't have to face their gnawing inner need.

But the good news is that now, because of Christ, we have peace with God. We are again united with Him. The wall between us has come down. We can approach God and be one with Him.

The Four Spiritual Laws illustrate this:

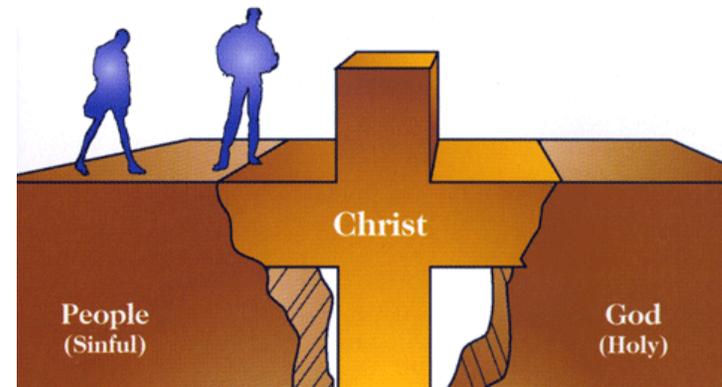
No bridge reaches God...except one.



Man attempts to reach God on his own strength, but nothing works. Good works, religion, philosophy, and morality are all incapable of breaching the massive chasm that exists between God and man

because of man's sin. The situation is hopeless from man's side of the canyon.

**God has provided the only way...
Each person must make a choice...**



<http://www.ftmeadeumc.org/templates/System/details.asp?id=39702&PID=474227>

It is God who has bridged the gulf from His side. It is Christ who becomes the means for man to be reunited with God.

Section 2: Romans 5: 2b-5 The Secret to Glory in Suffering

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And 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.

The Bible word "boast" is *καυχώμεθα* in the Greek. The root of this word means "neck." The picture is holding your head up high. The context here is because of our position of righteousness in Christ we can now hold our heads up high. We have confidence. It is vital to our psychology, to our sense of well-being, to believe that our lives are built on a solid foundation. Jesus said to build your life on the solid rock and not the shifting sand (Matthew 7:24-27).

There is nothing more solid than having a real relationship with God through Christ. Everything else can be taken away from us. We can lose our health and our wealth. Our possessions can be stolen. Our friends and family can abandon us. The only thing that remains stable for all eternity is our relationship with God through Christ. When we learn to lean on this alone, that we now have peace with God, we will be able to confidently hold our heads up high.

We glorify God by being like Him, by showing His character and holiness to the world. In Christ we become mirrors where God's reflection can be clearly seen. We become God's selfie, where He can show Himself to the world in us. In Christ we return to our original created state of being the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27).



<http://www.worshipunashamed.org/>

Paul is known for his suffering. He tells the Corinthians:

²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. (2 Corinthians 11:24-27)

When we read about Paul's ministry in the Book of Acts, we see him in constant danger and suffering multiple attacks. How could he endure this?

What makes this possible for Paul is what he knows. Firstly, his complete security is in his relationship with God through Christ. These are not just words. Paul has shifted his complete dependence and confidence on God and His salvation in Christ. Secondly, Paul also knows what God is doing in his life. Paul understands that he is in a God-directed process—the shaping of his life into the image of Christ. This shaping doesn't happen easily. There is much of the flesh still clinging to us like barnacles to a ship. These have to be removed for Christ to be formed in us. A. W. Tozer wrote, "The Christian life is not a free ride . . . Christ paid the price for our salvation; we now pay the price for our full identification with Him and our walk and pilgrimage toward spiritual perfection."¹

Unfortunately, the church of today has believed in a low-cost gospel. Many believe if they give their 10% and attend services regularly, then they are good Christians. They treat Christianity like a club where we pay dues. This is not real Christianity. Christianity is a life completely given to God. It is us giving ownership of everything we are and have, all our hopes and dreams and plans, into the God's hands. We are now his and enrolled in His process to make us like Christ. This process involves suffering.

Paul describes the process as:

Suffering---Perseverance---Character---Hope

Perseverance is waiting patiently. When we suffer, we experience intense pain. Christians know that their lives are in God's hands and that all things that come to them are not capricious or accidental. God sends everything into our lives for our good (Romans 8:28), including suffering. There are sins and prideful pockets within us that can only be alleviated through suffering. When we suffer and accept the suffering from God and wait on Him, things are loosed within us. Self-confidence is broken. Relying on temporary things for our security and identity ceases.

Character comes from perseverance. The word here means proving. In our culture we talk about a person showing what they are made of. When we suffer, we wait on God. As we do this, the Holy Spirit shows Christ within us. This is what Christians are made of. The image below is of the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7).

¹ *The Crucified Life*, pgs. 30, 125



<http://catholic-thoughts.info/saints/Decsaints.htm>

Hope comes from this proving of Christ within us. When we see Christ in us, His presence in us by the Holy Spirit, it gives us hope for our eternal home with God. This is not the empty hope of words. Anyone can say, “I am going to heaven where I will live with God in perfection.” It is quite another thing, far more real, to say, “I am in

the process of having Christ formed in me. It has begun in this life—and I actually see it happening as I respond to suffering with patient waiting. Seeing God’s love pouring out of me, experiencing His Holy Spirit’s presence gives me solid hope that I am on a track that will take me to God, to be with Him for all eternity.

Knowing all this, our suffering is never meaningless. We never have to ask, “Why me?” The suffering we experience comes to us for our benefit—that Christ might be more fully shaped within us.

Section 3: Romans 5:6-11 Reconciled to God

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! ¹⁰For 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! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also

boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This love that is poured into us through the Spirit is the same love that motivated God to save us sinners and His enemies. Although there was nothing in us that merited this action, God saved us out of His love.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Paul said earlier that God's wrath was revealed against all unrighteousness (Romans 1: 18). Paul is here stating that because we have been declared righteous through the death of Christ (Romans 4) we no longer have to worry about God's wrath. We are reconciled to Him forever.

The word for "we were reconciled" is *κατηλλάγημεν* in the Greek. It means our relationship is "completely changed." This is the ultimate end of God's work. God saved us to restore the relationship He had with Adam, that face-to-face intimacy. Being made righteous is not merely being declared safe from God's wrath and then we go on with our lives. It is not fire insurance. It is a drastic change in relationship.

"It will certainly include a forensic release from sin's penalty, but justification will also entail the entire process of the rectification of man's relationship to God who dynamically releases power to set this relationship in a new orbit. For Paul . . . the new sphere of living

is one of Sonship within a family context and no longer that of slavery under a taskmaster's stern eye."²

Piece by piece Paul has been putting together the puzzle and we are beginning to see the whole picture. God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ. In Him we are in a process of being transformed into the image of Christ. This gives meaning to our suffering, for when we respond with patient waiting, we will see God's love (the same love that moved Him to send His Son) poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

Consider the lyrics to "Refiner's Fire" by Brian Doerksen

Purify my heart Let me be as gold and precious silver Purify my heart Let me be as gold, pure gold	Purify my heart Cleanse me from within And make me holy Purify my heart Cleanse me from my sin Deep within
Refiner's fire My heart's one desire Is to be holy Set apart for You, Lord I choose to be holy Set apart for You, my Master Ready to do Your will	

² Ralph Martin, *Reconciliation, A Study of Paul's Theology*, pg. 35



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

We now have peace with God through Jesus. This must change our attitudes. With this declaration of peace, we can hold our heads up high. We can have confidence, we boast, in the hope of the glory of God.

This glory of God means that God is shown in us. God's glory is His self-revelation. In Christ our relationship with God is restored, we have true reconciliation. We are at peace and no longer under the wrath of God for our sins. Because of this, we have a face-to-face relationship with God. We can approach Him in worship and prayer. We walk in His presence moment-by-moment. We can grow deeply in love with Him and receive His love.

This loving relationship will change us. We will be transformed into the image of God (the original estate of mankind) and will become like Jesus. This process often requires suffering.

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

2 Corinthians 3:16-18 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.



CONNECT: Icebreaker

Hand our cards. Have the students list all the things that they have going for them. Tell them to be honest. Next tell them to rate themselves in these areas, from one to one hundred percent. When they are done, ask: Did anyone score a hundred in everything?

Explain: Paul mentions confidence. This is not self-confidence—something that the people of this world seek. It is not confidence in anything we have (our possessions, looks, intelligence), nor anything we may achieve in the future. This is confidence derived from our new standing with God in Christ. It is confidence in God.

I was once discipling a man who was rich and very handsome. He had a great sense of humor. He came from a well-respected family. In all worldly measurements he was at the top. I asked him to rate himself in all these areas. Overall, he gave himself a B average. We discussed how impossible it was for anyone to really feel confident and secure in the things of this world. No one is ever 100 percent here.

Paul has found a better source of confidence. His confidence is in God and in the grace he stands in before Him.

Explain to the students that we all will have to get our confidence from somewhere. It is best if we choose that which will give us perfect confidence and will never let us down.



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Section 1 Romans 5:1-2a

Key cards give people access to secure places. Grace, being in a right place with God as a free gift, is accessed in one way—by faith in Christ. The result of this is peace with God. Earlier Paul said that all men, Jews and gentiles, were under God’s wrath. Now in Christ, we are standing in His grace. Faith is our keycard.

Section 2 Romans 5:2b-5

Because of our new position, we have confidence in God’s glory. God’s glory is His self-revelation. This revelation is God showing Himself in us. Because we have a new standing, we can fellowship with God, be in His presence, which will change us into His image. He is transforming us into the likeness of His Son. Because of this, we know that our suffering is part of this process of God shaping His Son in us. God is like a fine sculpture chiseling away our flesh and sin so that Christ can be seen in us.

Section 3 Romans 5:6-11

The motive behind all of this is the unfathomable love of our God. God so loved us that He saved us when we did not deserve it. He saved us when we were sinners and enemies. Because we have been reconciled to God through the death of His Son, we no longer have any fear that we might experience God’s wrath. We have been saved. We have received a reprieve. We have been found innocent in Christ. Our execution has been stayed by the governor. The prison doors have been opened and we can walk out in freedom, no longer fearing justice. Jesus paid the price for us.



HOW DOES IT APPLY?

This section of Scripture is all about position, attitude, identity, and understanding.

Position: Because of Christ we stand in Grace. We are forgiven, we are reconciled to God, we are separated from His wrath, and we are in process of becoming vehicles of His glory.

Attitude: Our position is a source of constant joy and celebration. We praise God because of what He has done for us in Christ. We thank Him continuously. Nothing in our lives is more important than this. Through Christ we have received the gift that will carry us in this life and throughout all eternity. In Him we have been restored to our original purpose—to be in a loving relationship with God. Praise Him! He is truly worthy of all worship and praise; for Who He is, and also for what He has done for us.

Identity: Christians know who they are. We know what our lives are all about. We are God’s people, who stand in His grace, who are being transformed into the image of His Son. This was man’s original estate and it is now recaptured in us through Christ. In an age where people are scrambling and striving for identity and a sense of self, it is the Christian who knows who he or she is. This issue is settled for us. We are God’s children, being formed in His likeness.

Understanding: Because we know who we are, and God’s process of forming Christ in us through our suffering, and the fact that we live in the fallen world, we fully expect to be rejected and criticized by those who love the world. Satan is the god of this world and he is actively turning people against the truth of the gospel.

☀️ WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Section 1 Read Romans 5:1-2a

1. Where do we now stand? What does this mean?
2. How do we now have peace with God instead of wrath?

Section 2 Read Romans 5:2b-5

1. What is it that Christians have confidence in?
2. What is the glory of God? How does this apply to us? How can this be our hope?
3. Explain what suffering does for a Christian? How does this relate to God's purpose in our lives in Christ?
4. Why does hope not put us to shame? What have we received? What does this mean?

Section 3 Read Romans 5:6-11

1. What does Paul mean when he says we were powerless?
2. Why is it so unusual that Christ would die for us?
3. What was God's motivation for sending Christ?
4. What are we now saved from through Christ? How does this change the way we feel about our lives?
5. What does the word "reconciled" mean? How does this apply to our relationship with God?
6. What does Paul put his confidence in?

Big Idea: We, who were God's enemies and sinners, are now reconciled to God through Jesus. We have access to God. Could there be anything in our lives more important? Every moment of our lives should be focused on God with joy and thanks.

