

The Book of Romans

By Doug Hamilton

Romans 5:1-21 “The Results of Justification by Faith”

In summarizing the Book of Romans, it is important to remember that the Jews, including the Jewish Christians, were expelled from Rome by Claudius in 49 AD. When they came back in 54 AD following his death, they were greeted by an empowered gentile Christian group whom were no longer as dependent. This caused strife in the Roman church community. Paul aimed to resolve this. In chapter 1 of Romans we find the Apostle Paul proving to the gentile Christians that they were all sinners. In chapter 2 he extended the same condemnation to the Jewish Christians regardless of how much they wanted to cling to their heritage in the Law. In chapter Paul uniformly condemned all as sinners and ended the chapter with the introduction to “*justification by faith*” as the means for all. In chapter 4 he further explained this concept to the Jewish Christians using Abraham and David. In chapter 5 he exposes 6 results of this.

1) We have access to God.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

As a result of being justified by faith, we have ACCESS to God in many ways. The first way is the peace of God. The peace that Paul refers to is not the worldly definition of “opposite of war”, but of the well-being of the person of God. This peace was prophesied centuries before from the mouth of Isaiah. *Isaiah 52:7 How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, “Your God reigns!”*

The second access for the Christian is to the graciousness of God. His graciousness is the quality of God which enables Him to address our indifferences with Him. Our fleshly tendencies are contrary to God and it is His grace which allows us to approach His throne with confidence (Hebrews 4:16).

Our third access the hope of God. This is the Greek word meaning expectation. We have many expectations in God. Without it the hope of God we have nothing and with it we have everything. Justification by faith gives us that hope of God.

2) We have the perspective of God.

Romans 5:3-4 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

We all will have tribulations in this life. We must make sure that we hold to God’s perspective concerning those trying times in our lives, for it is a theme of the NT. Behind every tribulation is a blessing from God.

- James 1:2-3 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

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- 1 Pet 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ...
- Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- Matthew 5:11-12 “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

When we are justified through faith, we will always be able to hold to the perspective of God. Justification without faith will only present the viewpoint of the world.

3) We have the Holy Spirit of God.

Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The individual who has been justified by faith dwells in the love of God, but how? It is through the Holy Spirit that God pours His love out to us. The Holy Spirit, i.e. the Holy Ghost, i.e. the Holy Guest, dwells in us.

- We are sealed to God with a promise through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
- The Holy Spirit is the down payment for salvation (Ephesians 1:14).
- Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Cor 3:6)
- Paul said in *Romans 8:9* *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*

There are some whom say the Holy Spirit resides only in the word. Others say that the Holy Spirit resides only in the Christian. What is it? The answer is YES. If the Holy Spirit confirmed word says that the Holy Spirit resides in the Christian, then He resides in the Christian. When we were justified by faith, we are assured of the Holy Spirit to be in us.

4) We have love from God.

Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus said greater love hath no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friend (John 15:13). Paul goes one step further in description. He said that our Friend Jesus laid down His life for us while we were in the pitiful position of sin. That is a deep love He has for us. *John*

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3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. Justification by faith gives us the love of God.

5) We have reconciliation to God.

Romans 5:9-11 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

The ancient word for reconcile carries the meaning of exchanging some coins for some others of equal value, similar to exchanging four quarters for two nickels, four dimes and a fifty cent piece. It was something of an equal exchange. I referring to God and us, God offers mankind a changed outcome and in exchange for this he expects us to have a changed life. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 God “reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” When we have justification by faith, our severed relationship from God becomes RECONCILED.

6) We have a pattern from God (5:12-21).

a) A pattern of Sin and Death

Romans 5:12-14 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—¹³ for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Paul introduces into the argument “one man” named Adam. The name Adam means *MAN*, which is appropriate, for he was the first man of the human race (Genesis 2). It was through him that *sin entered into the world* (Genesis 3:6). There are many in the religious world whom teach the doctrine of original sin.

The doctrine of *original sin* holds that every person born into the world is tainted by the Fall such that all of humanity is ethically debilitated, and people are powerless to rehabilitate themselves, unless rescued by God. The logic: Since Adam sinned and plunged all mankind into sin, then even babies are born from the womb with that same sin attached to them (Psalm 51:5). They use it to justify sprinkling innocent, completely ignorant infants in an attempt to “baptize” them for the remission of their sins. The Bible knows nothing of this practice, for it is based in the misperception of men.

What the passage does teach is that all men follow the pattern of Adam in that they choose to sin against God. Each person reaching the point of reason will be faced with many decisions as to follow God or not and ALL will not perfectly choose righteousness all the time. As Paul already established in *Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*. At that point their soul is on a path of death. *James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when*

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he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. ¹⁵ *Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.* There is a pattern of sin and justification by faith makes it evident.

b) A pattern of Righteousness

Romans 5:15-17 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. ¹⁶ The gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment *arose* from one *transgression* resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift *arose* from many transgressions resulting in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Since there is a pattern of people making the choice to sin and be wrong in the eyes of the Lord, they must also be a pattern of making a decision to “RIGHT” the “WRONG”. This is the pattern of righteousness and is found in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus was in the unique position of having been tempted in all ways as we were, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Because of this He is able to come to the aid of those who have been tempted and taken the wrong path (Hebrews 2:18). This is why we take on the righteous life in Christ, for we have been transformed from the wrong way of thinking to the right way of thinking. Justification by faith exposes a pattern of righteousness.

c) A pattern of Eternal Life

Romans 5:18-21 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹ For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through the pattern of sin and death, to the pattern of righteousness, we have the “*justification of life*”. Paul would make the similar argument in *1 Corinthians 15:21-22 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.* There is a transferal *through righteousness* to eternal life *through Jesus Christ our Lord.* That is the ultimate pattern from God found in justification by faith in Jesus Christ, His eternal life.

Justification by faith brings many things into our lives. It brings us Access to God, Perspective of God, Love from God, the Holy Spirit of God, Reconciliation to God and a Pattern from God. In the next lesson from chapter 6 we will learn exactly when and how we are justified by faith in the Christian covenant.