

**WOMEN WALKING WISELY
A STUDY OF ROMANS (PART 1)
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**

**LESSON 5—ROMANS 5
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AND THE FRUITS OF JUSTIFICATION**

**WOMEN WALKING WISELY MEETING:
FEBRUARY 20, 2023**

This is the basic format for how this Bible study is designed. Following these steps will give us a close up look at the book of Romans. The Bible study steps can be organized as...

1. Read the assigned passage of Romans: Jotting initial thoughts at the end
2. Observe the section: Giving your own heading to the specific section(s) assigned to you
3. Evaluate the chapter: Identify the natural flow in the story as it moves along the chapter
4. Define the characters: Note the main actors in the story and give a description of each
5. Write out your questions: Look for anything you do not know and find the answer if you can
6. Answer the study questions: I will give you questions for each week that we will interact with
7. Interpret the text: Explain what the text said about and to the original audience and why
8. Apply the text: Look for the universal application that is true to the text and yet timeless

Romans Introduction

If you haven't already, take time to read through the book of Romans. When you are finished reading, jot down any initial thoughts, observations, and questions.

NOTE: You will often be asked in our study of the text to define words by looking at the Strong's Concordance to help understand the original meaning of a word in Greek (or Hebrew). You can simply do a Google search and type in Strong's #xxxx & press the enter button. This will take you to sites like biblehub.com or blueletterbible.org for a better understanding of what the specific word means.

Section 1: Romans 5:1 – 11

As we begin looking at Romans 5, the first thing we notice is that this section of Scripture begins with the word "therefore." Therefore is a little connecting word with great importance. It has the idea of connecting the dots. As you read through Romans 5 (especially verses 1 – 11), what is Paul connecting this portion of the letter to that he has already stated? How does it connect and why is it important?

Following the little connecting word, we come to the first dependent clause. What is the statement that is being made? Notice the verb tense here: because Paul is speaking to believers is Paul using past, present, or future tense? What have we been justified by? Write down what you know or have learned about faith.

In verse 1, we can take note of the first fruit of justification. What is it? What is the difference between having peace with God and the peace of God? Where does that peace come from?

In verse 2, who is the "Through him" referring to? What is the next fruit of justification? What does it mean to have access by faith (see also Ephesians 2:18 & 3:12; Matt. 27:51; Heb. 4:16)? And we have obtained this access through what?

We stand in grace! Which do you think is more powerful, grace or sin? (Take note of the following: Rom.5:20 & 8:31 – 34). "It is not so that believers may be free to sin that their salvation is secured. The very purpose and effect of salvation is to free men from sin, not to free them to do it." (MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1 – 8*. 1991. p. 278)

Not only do we have access but the end of verse 2 reminds the believer that we are able to do what? What is the believer's hope based upon (Rom. 15:4; Ps. 119:81)?

Describe what biblical hope is. (See also Phil. 3:20 – 4:1; 1 Jn. 3:1-2)

Not only do we have peace with God, not only do we have access by faith into this grace, not only do we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, but what else is the believer able to do as verse 3 begins?

Look up the following words:

sufferings [#2347]: what is another word for sufferings? See 2 Tim. 3:12; Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Cor. 4:17

rejoice [#2744]: what is another word for rejoice?

Tribulations or sufferings also produce other spiritual growth in the life of the believer. What else comes from this type of growth or what else is produced in the believer's life?

Look up the following words:

endurance [#5281]

character [#1382]

hope [#1680]

At the end of that list (v.5), what does hope do (or not do)? Why? If something has been poured out or poured into our hearts, what is the meaning behind this word picture? And what member of the trinity is actively at work in the life of the believer?

How would you describe Romans 5:3-5 practically being lived out in a believer's life? Can think of an example of someone who has lived this kind of life?

Looking at v.6, what does Paul mean by "while we were still weak"? What did Christ do? When did He do this? For whom did Christ die?

"Natural human love is almost invariably based on the attractiveness of the object of love, and we are inclined to love people who love us. Consequently, we tend to attribute that same kind of love to God." (MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1 – 8*. 1991. p. 285) We somehow convince ourselves that God loves us because we are so good or because we are so lovely, but these verses say otherwise.

Charles Hodge said, "But as God loved us as sinners, as Christ died for us as ungodly, our salvation depends...not on our loveliness, but on the constancy of the love of God."

Summarize the biblical truths of verses 7 – 8. By nature, who would willingly die for someone else or in someone else's place? But who did die for us? Why would Jesus do this?

Beginning in verse 9, Paul is saying (and I paraphrase), "if you think your justification is amazing (and it is), wait until you think about this next part!"

We have been justified through the blood of Jesus, but what other blessing has the repentant believer received? What is the wrath of God (Rom. 1:8; 8:1; 1 Thes. 5:9)?

Paul again uses the phrase "much more or more than that" in verses 10 – 11 to indicate, think about it...there's even more!!! Summarize the take aways from v. 10 -11. What does it mean to be an enemy of God? Are believers still enemies? What does it mean to be reconciled to God?

What is the last "more than that" statement in v.11?

If you could boil Romans 5:1 – 11 down to a word, what word is Paul describing for the believer?

Section 2: Romans 5:12 – 21

"Many people consider Romans 5:12 – 21...to be the most difficult passage in the epistle. At first reading it seems rather complex and enigmatic...But on the other hand, the truths themselves are wonderfully simple and clear when accepted in humble faith as God's Word...It is not that any of God's truths are unexplainable but that the explanations of many of them are beyond human comprehension. Our responsibility is to accept in faith both what is clear and what is not, what is comprehensible and what remains a mystery." (MacArthur. p. 291)

Again, we see the connecting word "therefore." Why?

How did sin enter the world? Who is the one man being referred to in this text? And what is the result of sin? What is the meaning behind the word death [**see Greek word: #2288**]? What then is the outcome for all men? Why (v.12)?

Think back to the garden of Eden, what command did God give to Adam (Genesis 2:15 – 17)? Next, let's consider the interaction between Adam, Eve, and the serpent (Genesis 3). What did Satan promise Eve as he tempted her in the garden? How did that go for them?

Did sin enter the world before or after the law was given? What have we learned about the law already in the book of Romans? What does the law do? The law clearly exposes sin. According to v. 13 what do we learn about sin prior to the law? Even without the law, what reigned (v.14)? What does it mean that

people sinned, but it “was not like the transgression of Adam?” (Think back to how Adam was created, how Adam lived, his whole life up until the fall.)

Who is Adam a type of? What is a type [**see Greek word: #5179b**]? What does this mean in this context?

What do you think the “free gift” is referring to in v. 15 – 16 ? By how many acts of disobedience did sin enter the world? By how many acts of sin or offense are sinners reconciled to God (justified)? Which act do you think was greater: “Christ’s one act of redemption or Adam’s one act of condemnation?”

What lavish grace is experienced by believers (v.17)?

Verse 18 begins with what repeated conjunction? _____

One trespass → _____ → for _____ men

One act of righteousness → _____ & _____ → for _____ men

One man’s _____ → many were made _____

One man’s _____ → many will be made _____

What did the law come to do (v. 20; see also Rom. 7:8 – 11; Gal. 3:21-22, 24)? What do you think this means? Does the phrase, “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,” give people the greenlight to sin at will? Explain. Verse 21 is a sober reminder that sin reigns in what? But v. 21 ends with a hopeful reminder for who believe in the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, that grace reigns for what purpose?

“We should be the most positive people in the world...We cannot drag our way through life, moaning and groaning. We cannot always be looking on the dark side of everything, as negative prophets of doom. No, ‘we exult in God.’ Then every part of our life becomes suffused with glory. Christian worship becomes a joyful celebration of God and Christian living a joyful service of God. So come, let us exult in God together.” John Stott (Hughes, R. Kent. *Romans: Righteousness from Heaven*. 1991. p. 111)