

The Way
Maturity of the Church
**Lesson 21: Believers Assured Peace with God;
Deliverance from Judgment, Sin and Death**

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

Charting Paul's Teaching Through Romans...

Condemnation - You are far from God (Romans 1-3)

Justification - You are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5)

Sanctification - You are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8)

Restoration - You are restored to God (Romans 9-11)

Transformation - You are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16)

Last week we learned that God made it possible to be made right with Him and receive eternal life...

- By placing our faith in Jesus Christ
- By believing in God's gift of grace rather than our own works
- By believing that there is only one way to salvation

Romans 4:5 (NLT) But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

BIG Idea

When we arrive in Romans 5, we hear no more of the law or our meaningless attempts of obeying it.

Being made right with God (justification) is now viewed in the *benefits* it delivers to the one who has been forgiven through faith in Christ.

Information (What You Need to Know)

The Benefits of Being Made Right with God Through Faith...

▪ **Peace with God**

Romans 5:1 (ESV) Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

✓ Because of our sin, God was angry and did not accept us (we were at odds)

✓ But through Christ, God now accepts us as righteous as Jesus is righteous

**“A believer is not responsible for having peace by *making* it but by *enjoying* it.
– Bible Knowledge Commentary”**

Questions to think about now that we are at peace with God...

- ✓ Does God still accept us even when we sin? *Yes. He accepts us when we sin.*
- ✓ Why does He accept us? *God covered us with Christ's righteousness*
- ✓ Does this mean that God doesn't care if we disobey Him? *No (later topic)*

▪ **Access to God**

Romans 5:2 (ESV) Through him [Christ] we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- ✓ Because of our sin, we were far from God
- ✓ Through Christ, we are welcome into His presence and can always talk to Him
- ✓ We can rejoice in knowing that there will be a time when we go home to God the Father in heaven for eternal life (glory of God)

▪ **God's strength in suffering**

Romans 5:3 (ESV) Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...

- ✓ Suffering is part of our experience while still here on earth
 - Suffering is not when I do stupid stuff and experience consequences
 - True suffering can result from...
 - Living counter to the culture (suffering for doing right)
 - The effects of sin in our daily life (loss, grief, interpersonal struggles)
 - Temptation (the alluring pull of the world)
- ✓ Suffering produces...
 - Endurance (the ability to persist under difficulties without giving in)
 - Character (something tested through suffering and passed with flying colors)
 - Hope (certainty directed toward God and His word/promises)

▪ **God's great love**

- ✓ Love through the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit

Romans 5:5 (ESV) ...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- ✓ Love for the ungodly

Romans 5:6 (ESV) For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- ✓ Love as a friend of God

Romans 5:11 (NLT) ...our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Application (What You Need To Do):

In the last section of Romans 5, Paul taught that believers can be certain that they've been delivered from the controlling power of sin and death.

Why?

Because they are no longer connected to Adam from whom all people inherited sin and death.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam **represented** ALL people when he sinned

Romans 5:12 (NLT) When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

On the cross, Christ **represented** ALL people who would receive Him by faith

Romans 5:18 (ESV) Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Adam's sin led to condemnation and death.

Christ's obedience to God's plan to save mankind led to people being made with Him and eternal life.

If we've been represented by Christ on the cross, we have the benefits of...

- Peace with God
- Access to God
- God's strength in suffering
- God's great love