

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Lesson 5 – The Blessing We Have

Learning the lingo is a necessary aspect of joining a particular community. Every group or tribe has its own vocabulary. If you are not familiar with certain phrases, you will be out of the loop. In business we hear phrases like "due diligence" and "sweat equity."

The police force has many codes (code 8, code 11, etc.). The military has a host of acronyms. Politics also has its own lexicon: right wing, left wing, POTUS, SCOTUS, and filibuster. Sports have all kinds of unique phrases. In baseball one can hear announcers talk about a "duck snort," the "bull-pen," "cheese," "dinger," a "frozen rope," and many other strange expressions.

And, of course, teenagers have their own jargon, which, at the time of this writing, includes PAP (post a picture), IDEK (I don't even know), BAE (before anyone else), dime (a 10 on a scale of 1-10); tope (a blend of "totally" and "dope," with "dope" meaning "seriously great").

Language serves to convey information, and specific jargon creates community among particular groups. Here in Romans, Paul is using the grammar of the gospel to convey the best news in the world and to unite diverse believers.

We see many gospel words like justification, condemnation, propitiation, and reconciliation. Grasping concepts like resurrection, grace, the love of God, substitution, the work of the Holy Spirit, faith, sin, judgment, hope, and repentance transforms our lives, shapes our worldview, and builds community.

1. We Have Peace with God: Romans 5:1
2. We Stand in Grace: Romans 5:2A
3. We Rejoice in Hope: Romans 5:2B-4
 - a. First, God's priority is not to take away all of your problems; it's to make you like Jesus.
 - b. Second, God's purposes can be trusted.
 - c. Third, God's pattern can be anticipated: afflictions-endurance-character-hope.
4. We Know a Love like No Other Love: Romans 5:5-8
 - a. First, the greatness of God's love is displayed in the cost of it (5:8).
 - b. Second, the greatness of God's love is displayed in our unworthiness of it (5:6-8).
5. We Have Assurance of Final Salvation: Romans 5:9-10
6. We Exult in God Himself: Romans 5:11