

ROMANS 5:1-21

INTRODUCTION

- **Romans 1:16-17** – For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – power of salvation!
 - The just shall live by faith – the theme for the next 8 chapters...
 - Those who are justified – forgiven – cleansed from sin – live by faith
- **Romans 1:18-32** – Those who reject God – will be judged by God!
- **Romans 2:1-29** – Those who are religious – will be judged by God!
- **Romans 3:1-20** – All of us are sinners – all in one group...
- **Romans 3:21-31** – Righteousness by faith alone...
 - We cannot be saved by our own good works – by trying to keep God's Law
 - Even the Law foresaw the need for a better way – a New Covenant
 - One where we are justified by faith in the work Jesus did on the cross
 - So there is now no more boasting – we did nothing – God did all the work of salvation
- **Romans 4:1-25** – Example of Abraham & David...
 - Abraham believed the promise of God – and it was counted to him as righteousness!
 - King David – blessed is the man who is forgiven – whose sin is not counted!
 - Abraham's example – to both Jew and Gentile (*he was saved before circumcision*)
 - Abraham's example – believe in the Lord – not doubting

JUSTIFIED BY FAITH... VS. 1-11

- **THE BENEFITS OF BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH... VS. 1-2**
 - Paul draws the conclusion to the first 4 chapters of Romans – we are justified by faith
 - We are not saved by any action or good works that we do – simply by faith in Jesus
 - Our salvation by faith has three benefits....
 - Past - Peace with God...
 - Before we had faith – we were enemies of God – we were destined for wrath and hell
 - But when we believed in Jesus – justified by faith – we received peace with God
 - We were no longer enemies – but friends – our relationship with God restored
 - You would not go to your enemy for help – or look to him for encouragement
 - You would go to a friend for help in times of trouble – a kind word – helping hand
 - Because we now have peace with God – through the cross of Jesus Christ
 - We can look to the Lord for help and comfort – we receive peace from God!
 - Present - Access to God's grace...
 - Having been saved by faith – we are also able to stand for Jesus in faith...
 - By faith we have access to God's grace – His infinite strength and resources!
 - We cannot live the Christian walk – live for Jesus – in our own strength...
 - We stand for Jesus – live for God – through the power of the Grace of God
 - **II Corinthians 12:9** – “My grace is sufficient, My strength is made perfect in weakness.”
 - It is when we realize we cannot live for God – that we look to God for His grace to stand
 - Future - Rejoice in hope of the Glory of God...

- Rejoicing because of the hope of Glory – the hope of eternity with God in heaven!
- Out great hope! One day we will stand before the father in heaven and hear the words
- ‘Well done good and faithful servant – enter into the Joy of your Lord...’
- Not because we are such wonderful people – we are no good dirty rotten sinners!
- But we have been saved through grace by faith in Jesus!

- **IN LIFE THERE WILL BE CHALLENGES – BUT WE CAN STILL REJOICE... vs. 3-5**
 - o Tribulation – *thilipsis* – the crushing of a grape till the juice flows out
 - This is counter intuitive – it seems to make no sense we would rejoice in hardships...
 - We understand rejoicing in heaven / salvation – but in hardships??
 - o A means to an end...
 - I recently spent a week in the Hospital – dengue – it was far from a pleasant experience
 - Yet I could rejoice in being there – because I knew it served a purpose...
 - In the same way we rejoice in tribulations/hardships – because they serve a purpose
 - Tribulations = perseverance = character = hope...
 - When we face trials/tribulations in life – we get to see God’s faithfulness
 - When we have no money – and we see the Lord provide for all our needs
 - When we are sick – and we see the Lord miraculously heal
 - If the Children of Israel had not been caught between Egypt and the Red Sea...
 - They never could have seen their God was able to part an ocean!
 - If there were never any challenges – we would never get to see God do a work!
 - Perseverance/patience – *hupomone* – patient endurance and abiding...
 - As we experience God taking care of all our needs – looking out for us
 - We gain confidence that He will take care of us the next time as well...
 - Why do we believe the sun will rise tomorrow morning – maybe it will fail...
 - We are confident the sun will rise – because it always has – it has never failed!
 - It is not that we are men of great faith – we have just seen God’s great faithfulness!
 - We are confident the Lord will take care of us – cause He has never failed us
 - Character – experience – proven through challenges or trials
 - Our confidence in the Lord’s faithfulness – gives us a godly character
 - We become known as those who trust in – rely on the Lord
 - Men who do not panic in the trials – men who patiently wait on the Lord
 - Who trust in the Lord – depend on Jesus – cause we have learned He is trustworthy
 - So we can rejoice in trials and tribulation because we know they make us Godly men
 - Godly character gives us Hope – that does not disappoint...
 - We have the hope of eternity with God in heaven
 - We are confident of our hope cause - the Love of God is poured out in our hearts...

- **DEFINING GOD’S LOVE... vs. 6-11**
 - o When did Jesus die for us - while we were weak (*still in bondage to sin*)...
 - Few men would be willing to die in place of another...
 - Would you be willing to die in place of a murderer / drug dealer / child molester...
 - The simple answer is no – let them pay their own penalty for their crimes...
 - Perhaps for a VERY good man – someone might be willing to die...

- History shows there're some 'extraordinary men' others have been willing to die for
- But they are exception – and few and far in between...
- Yet Jesus shows us His love – He died for us while we were still sinners...
- Jesus did not die for noble men – or VERY good men – He died for BAD men!
- He loved us so much He was willing to die – while we were still His enemies!
- If Jesus' death was our justification – how much more His life our salvation!
- Out hope - since Jesus was willing to die for us while we were still enemies of God...
- How much more will He save us – bring us to heaven – now that we are called friends!

NO LONGER UNDER SIN – UNDER GRACE... VS. 12-21

● ONE SINNED – ADAM - SO ALL WERE UNDER SIN... VS. 12-14

- o When God created the world – it was perfect – sinless...
 - Adam choose to eat of the forbidden fruit – because he sinned – sin entered the world
 - The result of sin – was death - immediate spiritual death / eventual physical death
 - All men since have 'inherited' from Adam – sin and death....
 - Every man has sinned and fallen short of God's perfect standard – **Romans 3:23**
 - Every man pays the penalty for that sin – all men will one day die – **Romans 6:23**
- o Sin was in the world – even before the Law of God was given to Moses...
 - But where there is no law – sin is not counted...
 - The purpose of the law is to bring the knowledge of sin – show us we are sinners
 - If there is no established law – then there is not way to enforce the law...
 - Even through there was no 'established law' until Moses – the penalty was still there
 - All men paid the penalty for sin – death – from Adam to Moses

● ONE SAVED - JESUS – SO ALL CAN BE FORGIVEN... VS. 15-21

- o In contrast to Adam – Jesus Christ...
 - In Adam's sin –
 - All men were condemned to death - death reigned
 - All men came under judgment – resulting in condemnation – hell
 - Through Adam's disobedience – men were made sinners
 - In Jesus' free gift –
 - All men had the opportunity to receive Grace and life!
 - All men had the opportunity to receive justification (*just as if they'd never sinned*)
 - Through the abundance of grace – Jesus' gift of righteousness – life reigns!
 - Through Jesus' obedience – many will be made righteous!
 - We were once under Adam – cursed – destined for death and hell
 - But now we are under Jesus – blessed – destined for life and heaven!
- o The Law vs. Grace...
 - The Law was given so that sin might abound – be more apparent/clear
 - But where sin abounded – Grace was MUCH more abundant!
 - Under Adam – the Law was our judge – condemning us – revealing our sin...
 - Under Jesus – Grace sets us free – for every sin was covered at the cross of Christ
 - The more the sin – the more the grace God gives...

- Where sin abound – Grace is right there to forgive us any debt – making us righteous!