

**Welcome - (~1 min)****Opening prayer – (~1 min)****Opening Comments – (~3 min)**

- We are now to chapter 5 of our Romans study and we have seen that Paul is a very logical thinker in the way he presents his thoughts.
- He has demonstrated quite effectively that the entire world is guilty before God, and that no one can be saved by works or religious deeds, such as keeping the Law, following church ardor and order.
- Paul has explained that God's way to salvation has always been "*by grace, through faith*" (Eph. 2:8-9), and he has used Abraham as his illustration of that truth.
- Now, if the reader were to stop at this point in Romans, he/she would know that he/she *needed* to and *could* be saved.
- But Paul knew there is much more a believer needed to know about *justification by faith*.
- For instance, they will have questions like: "Can this salvation last?" Or, "How is it possible for God to save a sinner through the death of Christ on the cross?"
- In this chapter, Paul tackles such concerns for the reader(s) of his letter.
- One of the most important principles of sound Bible interpretation is that not everything written in the Bible is for everybody.
- This seems strange and wrong to some people.
- But it should not be, because we acknowledge this principle widely in our every day life.
- We expect the postal carrier to deliver our mail to our house.
- When we get someone else's mail, we must give it back to the postal carrier and hope the people who get our mail by accident do the same.
- We are not interested in someone else's letters, bills, or bank accounts.
- So this letter of Paul's is just that and it targets various people depending on what section we are reading.
- We have passed from a section of Romans 1-4 in which Paul gives the gospel message to all who hear it and have not yet believed it.
- Now Paul presents this section of his letter to those who have *believed* in Jesus Christ.
- This is clear by how he opens chapter 5, (remembering this was a letter and didn't have chapters/verses. In fact, it didn't even have punctuation) we see how his focus has shifted by his words.
- Let us also remember how this ties in to our churches mission associated with the theme the next few weeks: "The Gospel's Power to Free the Found"
- Let's begin here with our study lesson:

Discussion of the Study Lesson – (~51 min) - (Start time _____)**Week's Aim: The Gospel's Power to Free the Found: The Reign Of Grace****Topic for Day 1: Overview – Read Romans 5:1-21**

Have people open their Bibles to Romans 5:1 and follow along with you - this is so they can see what the Word says.

1. (+1 min) **What names are mentioned in this chapter?**

(God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, Adam, and Moses)

2. (+1 min) **How would you describe the theme of this part of Paul's letter?**

(Justification and glorification is how Paul begins – he seems to want new believers to know they're secure in their new found salvation.)

3. (+2 min) **What is something new you have learned from reading this passage today?**

(Seek to bring out answers from some of the quieter ones in the group if you have them)

(+2 min) **Application 1: What will you apply to your life this week from the sermon you heard?**

(+2 min)

Note for leaders: Paul condenses so many truths and principles in these first five verses that it will take time to give them what little justice is possible when studying at this pace. We encourage you to make notes, mark up the Leaders Guide, whatever is necessary, so your sharing may be maximized. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide you as you lead your group.

Topic for Day 2: Peace, access, rejoicing and the Holy Spirit are benefits of believing in Jesus. – 5:1-5

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

1. (+1 min) **What does it mean to you that you have peace with God and how is this significant in your daily relationship with Him?**

- There are different kinds of peace spoken of in the Bible.
- First, there is world peace – Christ will bring peace on earth but that hasn't happened. Obviously, this is not they kind of peace Paul is referring to.
- There is that peace of tranquility of soul. This is the type of peace Jesus offered His disciples in **John 14:27** *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*
- This is a peace that comes to those faithful ones committed to doing His will.
- It seems this is a peace that comes and goes as we move in and out of the will of our Father.
- Paul is not referring to this kind of peace in this verse.
- Another kind of peace is mentioned by Paul in **Phil. 4:7**, *"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*
- Since this verse states "which transcends all understanding," it seems It is a peace we do not understand.

- The peace Paul is talking about, which is the first benefit of salvation, is *“peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*
- This is the peace that comes to the soul of the person who trusted Christ as Savior.
- It is a peace for the believer who now knows that God, who had to be against him/her because of sin, find him/her no longer guilty.
- This peace comes because the person has been reconciled to God because of what Christ did on the Cross.

2. (+3 min) **Identify the access we have been given through Christ in these verses (Romans 5:2; Ephesians 2:18; 3:12; Hebrews 10:19-25):**

- Rom. 5:2 – *“through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand”*
- Eph. 2:18 – *“For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit”*
- Eph. 3:12 – *“in Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence”*
- Heb. 10:19-25 *“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching”*
- Access means that we have access to God in prayer.
- Today, we as children of God have access to a heavenly Father who will listen to us and answer our prayer.
- Now, that doesn't mean he answers it the way we necessarily want it answered but He always hears us and sometimes shows His love for us by saying no to our request(s).
- You will notice that we have *access by faith* into this *grace* in which we *stand*.

3. (+3 min) **What does suffering do for us as Christians and how might we rejoice in our suffering?**

5:3-4, *“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

- Key to these verses are the words “we know” – this is important because knowledge is key to everything
- Paul is saying that believers can rejoice in their suffering because of what they know about it
- We don't know everything about our suffering but we do know some things
- Here are five reasons for suffering:
 1. We know that some suffering is the result of natural causes – **Job 5:7**, *“Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.”*
 2. The Lord corrects us through some suffering – **Psalm 119:57**, *“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.”*
 3. Some suffering is brought on us to bring glory to Christ – **John 9:3**, *““Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. “*

4. Some suffering could be called cosmic whereby God demonstrates His rightness before the fallen angels – **Job 1-2**

5. Suffering may be used to teach and strengthen us – **Romans 5:3-5** (see the list above)

- This topic of suffering is one we could spend much time on but we don't have that much time.
- A recommendation when suffering comes, and it will come some time, is to remember these five reasons for suffering.
- Then as you go through each one, see if it applies to your suffering and follow that with prayer.
- The experienced believer will hold to the hope and character the Holy Spirit instilled in him/her.

4. (+3 min) **According to 5:5, what is a work of the Holy Spirit?**

5:5 - "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us"

- We started with hope in 5:1 and end with it in 5:5, Larwance Richards summarizes this hope:
- "The result of our justification through faith is *peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*"
- This peace with God is objective and subjective.
- Objectively we have "*gained access*" to God, because the ground we stand is one of *grace* and not of works (vs.2)
- Subjectively, our new "*at peace*" relationship with God has multiple expressions.
- We "*rejoice [have joy] in the hope of the glory of God.*"
- "*Hope*" here and the rest of the New Testament is a special term.
- It is *not* a word suggesting uncertainty (e.g., "I hope I can make it up the hill.").
- It is instead a word of *confident expectation*.
- Christian *hope* is a sense of certainty that brings us *joy*, even if our present circumstances are painful.
- Paul specifies the basis of this *joy* producing *hope* in three ways:
- 1) We know suffering is intended to produce an inner transformation of our character
- 2) The Holy Spirit who has been given to us pours out God's love in our hearts.
- 3) There is evidence of God's love for us seen in the Cross."¹

(+2 min) **Application 2: Peace, access, rejoicing, and hope. Which of these will you offer someone today? How?**

(+2 min)

Topic for Day 3: We are justified, saved, and reconciled through Jesus Christ. – 5:6-11

1. **In verses 6-8 Paul identifies three conditions of man [people] when Christ died for us, what are they?**

- 1) Powerless; 2) Ungodly; 3) Unrighteous/not good/sinners
- Christ died for the ungodly – not for good men and women, but for ungodly sinners – those who were actually His enemies, who hated Him, to whom He said when they were crucifying Him, "*...Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" (Luke 23:34).
- You and I are numbered with those who crucified Christ!
- We must be careful of judging those Roman soldiers, Pilate, and the religious leaders who made the events happen.

- The truth is, in our hearts before we were saved, we would have been saying “Crucify Him” along with the rest.

2. (+2 min) **By what are we justified and from what are we saved?**

- We are “*justified by His blood*” (vs. 9);
- We are saved from “*God’s wrath through Him!*” (vs. 9)
- The *wrath* spoken of here is what the prophets spoke of: “*That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness*” Zephaniah 1:15
- The “*day of wrath*” is what Jesus called the Great Tribulation.

3. (+2 min) **What does it mean to be reconciled to God and why is this important to salvation?**

- Dr. James Montgomery Boice summarizes the meaning of reconciliation
- ““Reconcile” means to remove the grounds of hostility and transform the relationship, changing it from one of enmity to one of friendship.
- In our case, as Paul has shown earlier, it meant taking us out of the category of enemies and bringing us into God’s family as privileged sons and daughters.
- If God did that for us while we were enemies, Paul reasons, He is certainly going to save us from the final outpouring of His wrath on the day of judgment, now that we are family members.
- If God has done the greater thing, He will do the lesser.
- If He has saved us while we were still enemies, He will certainly save us as friends.”²
- Why is it important to salvation? It is the basis of salvation for us as natural enemies of God!

4. (+3 min) **Using Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:24-25 (and other references if you like) explain how we are saved by Jesus’ life?**

- **Romans 8:34** “*Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us*”
- **Hebrews 7:24-25** “*but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*”
- Christ came from His glory with God to live on earth as Matt. 20:28 says, “*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*”
- Then in 8:34 we see that Christ intercedes for us before God
- We are saved by one who lives forever (Heb. 7:24) a permanent priesthood
- He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him!
- We are saved by coming to God through Jesus Christ who lives forever!

(+3 min) **Application 3: Write a brief prayer thanking God for reconciling you to Himself and pray it throughout the day. If you are not reconciled to God, write a brief prayer asking Him to draw you to Himself and pray it throughout the day.**

(+2 min)

Topic for Day 4: Death and sin entered through one man and through Jesus Christ comes life. – 5:12-17

1. Using Genesis 3, identify verses which prove sin would result in separation from God and death:

- 3:8 *"Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden"*
- 3:17-19 *"To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."*
- 3:22-24 *"And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life."*
- Adam and Eve knew what they were doing. Eve repeated God's warning to the serpent (3:2-3)!
- They hid from God in the cool of the morning!
- There were two deaths in this tragedy: spiritual death – they feared God – before they walked with Him
- The second death came later when they physically died
- God did just as He had told Adam – His judgment was physical death for all humans through Adam!
- Please understand this: **God never intended for man [or woman] to die!** Adam brought all this on!
- Our American individualism makes **Rom 5:12-17** hard to embrace.
- We were sinners at our conception (**Ps 51:5**).
- Adam is our representative - we inherit Adam's sin.
- We may react against this., but we need to remember the good news that Jesus is our representative.
- We gain the benefits of His righteousness even though we have not done anything to deserve this.

2. (+3 min) List some contrasts between the "Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come." (5:14) and Jesus Christ:

- The one sin of Adam versus the one act of righteousness of Christ
- The disobedience of Adam versus the obedience of Christ
- Death reigns for all people through Adam versus life reigns through Christ for all believers in Him
- Condemnation because of Adam versus justification through Christ
- Of these five contrasts, the greatest is the one between condemnation and justification, since this is what the chapter has been dealing with in one way or another all along.

3. (+2 min) From 5:12-17 summarize what Paul says Jesus Christ offers to people:

- *"...many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many."* – grace has overflowed to the believer
- As sin brought condemnation but *the gift* brought justification

- “by the trespass of the one man, **death reigned through that one man**, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ”
- In **5:17** the two “reigns” are contrasted
- Paul argued in **5:14** that men did not die because of breaking the law, the law hadn't been given yet
- Men died because sin was reigning in their lives - “*The wages of sin is death*” **Rom. 6:23**
- But in Jesus Christ we enter into a new kingdom, “*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*” – **Rom. 14:17**
- Our spiritual reign is far greater than Adam's earthly reign because we share an abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness! – **5:17**

(+3 min) **Application 4: What will you share from this study with someone today? You may be a gift for someone if you do.**

(+2 min)

Topic for Day 5: God's grace reigns. – 5:18-21

1. “**one act of righteousness was justification that brings life**” Using the following verses identify the results of life in Christ (**John 10:28; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:12; Colossians 2:2; and Hebrews 13:20-21**):

- **John 10:28** – Christ gives us eternal life; **Galatians 2:20** – Christ lives within me; **Ephesians 3:12** – In and through Jesus Christ we have access to God; **Colossians 2:2** – We may know the mysteries of God in Jesus Christ in whom are treasures of wisdom; **Hebrews 13:20-21** – God will equip us to do His will through Jesus Christ – to God be the glory!

2. (+2 min) **A contextual question: In 5:18, is Paul saying that all people are saved and going to heaven?**

Explain:

(see John 3:16-17, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16-17; 10:9-13 – add more references)

- If one takes this verse out of the context of what Paul has been saying in his letter and the other books of the Bible, the answer could be “yes”
- There are many verses which confirm that salvation is for those who believe.
- **John 3:16-17** “*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*”
- **John 14:6** “*Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*”
- **Acts 4:12** “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved*”
- **(Our memory verses) Romans 1:16-17** “*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”*”
- **Romans 10:9-13** “*That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are*

justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ¹¹ As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- There are many more verses which demonstrate that Paul is not promoting that everyone is saved and going to heaven.
- However, this is a good example that we must try our best to maintain the context in which things are being said.
- Keeping context may be bounded by a few verses, chapters, or even books of the Bible.
- Remember it is one book and it should be viewed as one book with consistency throughout.
- So when a passage seems to be saying something contrary to what you have studied, a good thing to do is check the context.

3. (+2 min) **What does verse 5:21 mean to you personally? How might you share that with someone else?**

- **Romans 5:21** – “so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord “
- Praise God! His grace reigns and increases as sin increases!
- Like the hymn “Grace, grace, wonderful grace, grace that is greater than our sin”
- God’s *grace* credits to us Christ’s *righteousness* in place of our sin!
- God’s *grace* offers us eternal life in place of condemnation!
- We don’t *earn* His *grace* nor do we deserve His *grace* but He freely offers His *grace* to everyone!
- His *gift* comes to us in the person of Jesus Christ and the instant a person chooses Jesus as his/her Lord and Savior, they receive God’s precious costly gift!
- A simple principle: God’s *grace* sets the sinner free the instant he/she chooses Jesus’ gift of eternal life!
- The question begs “Is there anyone here that has not been set free by this reigning grace?”
- If not, talk to one of our pastors!

(+2 min) **Application 5: Will you trust in God’s grace to help you share the gospel with someone today?**

Who? _____

(+1 min)

Optional question: Paul uses the word “*through*” sixteen times in this chapter. Using a separate sheet of paper, write the word/phrase preceding the word *through* then add the word/phrase which follows. Be sure to place the verse number beside each set so you can identify it. What did you discover?

- Here is a table showing the 16 “*through*” statements:

No.	Action	Through	Consequence	Verse
1	Justified	Through	Faith	5:1
2	Peace with God	Through	Our Lord Jesus Christ	5:1
3	Lord Jesus Christ	Through	We have gained access by faith into this grace	5:2
4	Saved from God’s wrath	Through	Him (Jesus Christ)	5:9
5	Reconciled to Him (God)	Through	The death of His Son (Jesus Christ)	5:10

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6	Shall be saved	Through	His (Jesus Christ's) life	5:10
7	We rejoice in God	Through	Our Lord Jesus Christ	5:11
8	Our Lord Jesus Christ	Through	Who we have now received reconciliation	5:11
9	Sin entered the world	Through	One man	5:12
10	Death	Through	Sin	5:12
11	Death reigned	Through	That one man	5:17
12	Those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life	Through	Jesus Christ	5:17
13		Through	Obedience of the one man many were made sinners	5:19
14		Through	The obedience of one man many will be made righteous	5:19
15	Grace might reign	Through	Righteousness	5:21
16	To bring eternal life	Through	Jesus Christ our Lord	5:21

- This is a very interesting series of "gateways" from one state or condition or relationship to another.
- It underscores the "dynamic process" of both historical and individual salvation.
- It demonstrates an interactive process where each decision and/or action a person makes has real consequences both in real time and for eternity.

(+3 min - if you cover this question - if you are out of time, have those who did the question come to you after the closing and you can share with them how their chart might have looked)

Closing Comments – (~2 min)

- What a tremendous chapter Paul has penned and so long ago yet most of it can be applied to our lives today.
- We cannot help being "in Adam," for this is the result of our first birth which none of us had any control over.
- But we can transition beyond being "in Adam" to a new birth from above – a birth where Christ lives within us in the form of the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayers – (~1 min)

¹ Lawrence O. Richards, *"The Teacher's Commentary"*, Chariot Victor Publishing, p. 815

² Dr. James Montgomery Boice, *"An Expository Commentary Romans Volume 2"*, p. 547