
Romans: Gospel People

Midweek Bible Study

Week 7 - Romans 5:1-11 - Reconciled to God



New Section chap. 5-8

Paul writes on the consequences that flow from Christ's having been raised for our justification

Douglas Moo:

"By believing in Jesus Christ, the divine agent in God's climatic act of deliverance, Paul and the Roman Christians - and Christians of all ages and places - have been declared innocent of all charges justly brought against those who "sin and fall short of God's glory" (3:23)."

Anders Nygren:

"All who have new life in Christ are free from wrath [*ch 5*], free from sin [*ch 6*], free from law [*ch 7*], and free from death [*ch 8*]."

Question:

What does this all mean?

What is the exact nature of this new status?

What are its implications for their and our lives and for the future?

These are the kind of questions that Paul explores in the chapters 5 through 8.

Chapter 5

Morris:

“Justification has results. The justified person has peace and joy, and Paul exalts this.”

- Verses 1-11 look at justification as the basis and the beginning of all of God’s blessings for the believer.
- Verses 12-21 then look at justification as God’s means of reversing the curse of sin and death brought about by Adam and overturned by Jesus Christ.

Chapter 5:1-11

Suggested structure for chapter 5:1-11 (John Stott)

The results of justification

- a. We have peace with God (1).
- b. We are standing in grace (2a).
- c. We rejoice in [our] hope of the glory of God (2b).
- d. We also rejoice in our sufferings (3-8).
- e. We shall be saved through Christ (9-10).
- f. We also rejoice in God (11).

1 - *...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

In the greek, 'peace' communicated an absence of hostilities
Or potentially a 'pleasurable sensation of happiness'

Consider Numbers 6:26:

"the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Shalom - peace, harmony, holiness, well being, prosperity, wellness and tranquility

2a - *through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.*

It's about what Christ does not what we do.

His grace towards us. 2b - *And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.*

This rejoicing, more of an exalted boasting perhaps
Not boasting because of human achievement
But boasting because of the gracious provision of God

Left to our devices, we fall short of God's glory (Romans 3.23)
Yet in John 17:23 Jesus prayed that his followers would see his glory
Stephen did in Acts 7:55

Kasemann:

"Not the prospect of what might happen, but what is already guaranteed"

3-8 - Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



Sometimes the word suffering is translated as tribulations. These are not the trials and tribulations of our earthly existence.

The word here is *Thlipseis* = pressures
The opposition and persecution of a hostile world.

MOO:

- a. Human love, at its best, will motivate a person to give his or her life for a truly “good” person (v.7);
- b. Christ sent by God, died, not for “righteous” people, or even for “good” people, but for rebellious and underserving people (v.6);
- c. Therefore: God’s love is far greater in its magnitude and dependability than even the greatest human love (v.8).

9-10 - *Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

Saved from God's wrath (v.9)

Saved through his life (v.10)

11 - *Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

Questions for discussion

What do you think it means to have peace with God?

Is there a difference between Paul's statement in Romans 5:1 and the reality for many believers today, having of peace with God? Where do you identify yourself? And why is there such a great absence of peace with God?

How is the Christian's view of suffering (5:3-4) different from others?

What is the potential impact of Romans 5:1-11 on your day to day relationship with God.