

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE
Pastor Mark Anderson
THE BOOK OF ROMANS
SESSION FOUR: Study Outline for Romans 5:1-21

Introduction: The Blessings of Justification

In Romans 5, Paul takes us into the heart of the Gospel, where the breathtaking beauty of justification by faith unfolds before our eyes. Here, we encounter the riches of God's grace that flow into our lives through the work of Christ. This chapter points to the peace, hope, and love that are ours in Christ. It's a call to see the profound contrast between the old humanity in Adam and the new humanity in Christ.

Purpose:

Paul leads us on a journey that begins with peace with God, moves through hope in the midst of suffering, and culminates in the contrast between Adam's fall and Christ's obedience. This is not abstract doctrine—it's the lived reality of those who have been embraced by the grace of God.

Themes:

Peace with God, the refining fire of tribulation, the immeasurable love of God, the joy of reconciliation, the catastrophic impact of Adam's sin, and the superabundant grace that triumphs through Christ.

Objective:

Our goal is to understand how Paul masterfully paints the picture of what it means to be justified, showing us the stark difference between the devastating consequences of Adam's disobedience and the life-giving obedience of Christ.

I. Peace and Hope through Justification (Romans 5:1-5)

- **Romans 5:1-2:**
 - **Peace with God:** Paul opens with the assurance that, having been justified by faith, we are at peace with God. This peace isn't just a ceasefire; it's the deep, abiding, authentic reconciliation that only Christ can bring.
 - **Access to Grace:** Through Christ, we stand in grace—like being welcomed into the wide-open arms of God's favor. Here, we find joy as we anticipate the full unveiling of God's glory.

- **Romans 5:3-5:**

- **Rejoicing in Suffering:** Paul doesn't shy away from the reality of suffering. Instead, he shows us that suffering, in God's hands, is a tool that builds endurance, shapes character, and fortifies our hope.
- **Hope and Love:** This hope isn't wishful thinking; it's anchored in the love of God, which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts—a love that is as unshakeable as the God who gives it.

II. The Love of God Demonstrated through Christ (Romans 5:6-11)

- **Romans 5:6-8:**

- **Christ's Sacrifice for the Ungodly:** At the perfect time, Christ died for us—not when we were at our best, but when we were helpless and ungodly. This is love in action, love that reaches down to the depths of our need.
- **God's Love in Action:** Human love might extend to those who deserve it, but God's love goes further—it sacrifices for those who are utterly undeserving.

- **Romans 5:9-11:**

- **Saved from Wrath:** Through the blood of Christ, we are saved from the wrath we both experience and deserve. Justification isn't just about being declared righteous; it's about being rescued from judgment.
- **Reconciliation with God:** While we were still enemies, God reconciled us to Himself through Christ. This reconciliation is more than just making peace—it's the restoration of a relationship that leads to profound joy.

III. Adam and Christ: A Comparison (Romans 5:12-21)

- **Romans 5:12:**

- **Sin and Death through Adam:** Sin's entry into the world through Adam brought death to all. Paul doesn't mince words—Adam's disobedience had catastrophic consequences that ripple through all of humanity.

- **Romans 5:13-14:**

- **Sin before the Law:** Even before the Law was given, sin was present, and its power was evident in the reign of death from Adam to Moses. Adam stands as a foreshadowing of Christ—the one who was to come and undo the curse.

- **Romans 5:15-17:**

- **Contrast between Adam and Christ:**

- **Adam's Trespass vs. Christ's Gift:** Where Adam's trespass brought death, Christ's gift brings life. The grace of God doesn't just match the devastation of sin—it overflows far beyond it.
 - **Superabundant Grace:** God's grace doesn't trickle—it floods. Through Christ, grace abounds, leading to justification and enabling us to reign in life. In Christ, we receive more than we lost in Adam.

- **Romans 5:18-19:**

- **One History, Two Outcomes:**

- **Adam's Disobedience:** Condemnation for all.
 - **Christ's Obedience:** Justification and life for all who believe. The whole course of human history hinges on these two acts—Adam's rebellion and Christ's obedience.

- **Romans 5:20-21:**

- **The Law and Grace:**

- **The Law's Role:** The Law entered to make sin undeniable, but it also made grace unmistakable. Where sin increases, grace overflows even more.
 - **Grace Reigns:** Sin reigned in death, but now, grace reigns through righteousness, leading to eternal life in Jesus Christ. Grace is the final word, the triumphant note that resounds through the Gospel.