

How Do We Then Live?

Week 2 - Romans 5

? What is something that's bringing you hope right now?

Objectives:

- Soak in the peace and hope we have through God's continuing abounding grace demonstrated through Christ's death for us.

Peace & Hope

Romans 5:1-11 NIV

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ 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.

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ 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! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

? In verses 1-2, Paul lists three blessings that justified believers receive; peace with God through Jesus, access by faith into grace, and hope in the glory of God. How does this list encourage you?

Possible answers: Answers will vary.

? How does Paul say hope is produced in a believer's life? Why do you think Paul brings up suffering in the midst of a discussion of hope?

Possible answers: According to Paul, one pathway to hope is through suffering (v. 3-4). Paul acknowledges that believers will experience suffering. Yet we have hope in the knowledge that God uses suffering to shape us and bring us closer to Him.

? How do these verses encourage us as we face temptations and problems?

Possible answers: We know that we can have hope and that it does not put us to shame. We can rest in the love of God that has been poured out into our hearts in the midst of suffering.

? What does this passage say about us before we knew God? How does Jesus' death change our circumstances?

Possible answers: We were ungodly, weak, and powerless. We could do nothing on our own to save ourselves. Jesus' death changes everything! We are now justified and saved from God's wrath through his death. We are saved from God's wrath, reconciled, and have eternal life.

? How does the demonstration of how much God loves us (verse 8) matter in our day to day living?

Possible answer: Answers will vary.

Grace Abounding

Romans 5:12-21 NIV

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— ¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, 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!

¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

²⁰ The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, 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.

In this chapter, Adam is a template for Jesus who is to come. The theological term for this is a "typology." All were stained by Adam's sin. Jesus is the truer, better Adam who redeemed what Adam corrupted. There are many other "types" of Jesus in the Old Testament including Jonah, Joseph, and Isaac.

? Is it fair to be punished for Adam's sin thousands of years ago?

Possible answers: We both inherit the original sin of Adam and at the same time, are sinners in our own right. You may ask the opposite question: is it fair for the perfect Jesus to bear the burden of our sins?

? How are Adam and Jesus alike? How are they different?

Possible answers: Alike - Actions had ramifications for all humans; Different - Jesus' death had the complete opposite effect from Adam's trespasses.

? What does Paul mean when he says "the law was brought in so that the trespass might increase" in verse 20?

Possible answers: The law reveals our sin and in fact, according to this verse, causes people to sin even more. Having a set standard creates responsibility. We can have peace because God had a perfect plan for that. In Jesus' death, "grace increased all the more" or "grace abounded all the more." There is more grace in him than sin in us.

? How is this passage encouraging to believers?

Possible Answers: Paul is making it clear that Christ has paid the penalty for our sin! Despite the sin brought into the world through Adam, justified believers have hope in life. Jesus took on God's wrath on our behalf. Verse 21 serves as a great summary.

For Discussion and Accountability

? What was God telling you through this passage this week? What did you need to hear?

? How would you describe your hope prior to recognizing Jesus' work on the cross? After?

? How can you live in hope this week? How can we encourage you in that hope this week?