

The Blessings and Basis of Justification

Romans 5

Romans 5 is divided into two sections: (1) The blessings of justification (5:1-11), and (2) The basis of justification (5:12-21)

DAY 1: The blessed effects of justification (5:1-5)

1. Today's passage highlights some of God's greatest gifts to His people!

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2. Romans 1-4 taught us the wonder of being justified by God and before God, not because of our deeds, but in spite of them! How does Paul say we are justified?

3. One result of being justified through faith is we now have peace with God! What would that mean for you regarding your:

a. Past?

b. Present?

c. Future?

Romans 5:2 ... 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.

4. We have gained access to God's presence, something we had lost through our sin. As we can now approach God, we do so, not in fear but in the atmosphere of grace! How should this affect how you view yourself? And how you view God?

5. How does it make a difference that God WANTS to be with you and delights in you?

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

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.*

6. When most people go through suffering they begin to question God. Why is this a bad idea?

7. How can we expect God to redemptively use suffering in our lives?

DAY 2: We are reconciled to God by His blood (5:6-11)

Romans 5:6 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 man, though for a good man 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.*

1. It's easy to hear the oft-repeated words, "God loves you," and yawn. "Yeah. I know that." In these verses Paul goes to some lengths to help us think about God's love differently.

2. One angle is who Christ died for. What words does Paul use to describe the people for whom He died?

3. Paul illustrates the stunning nature of God's love for sinners. He compares the cost a human is willing to pay for someone vs. the cost God is willing to pay for people. What difference(s) strike you in this comparison? (5:7)

Romans 5:9 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, when 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 rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

4. What was our human predicament because of our sin? Look for one item in 5:9 and one item in 5:10.

5. The wrath of God, meant to deter us from sin, was poured out upon His own Son, Jesus Christ, who died in our stead. How does this heighten the wonder of God's love for you?

6. What should our response be to the wonder of God's love? Look especially at 5:11.

DAY 3: Death through Adam; life through Christ (5:12-14)

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned--

¹³ *for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when 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 was a pattern of the one to come.*

1. Romans 5:12-21 (the next three days' study) deals with the basis of our justification. Paul is going to use the comparison between what Adam did, and what Christ did.

2. How did the world get into the mess we're in? How did sin first enter our world? (5:12)

3. Every person born into the world is born with a sin nature, a "bent" toward self and sin. No one has to teach a toddler how to say "mine" when asked to share a toy. No one has to teach him how to say "no" when told to do something he doesn't want to do. No one has to teach a child how to lie. All these things just come "*naturally*." (our *nature*)

4. What was the consequence of sin entering the world? (5:12)

5. In the same way that a toddler can sin without having ever having read God's law, so mankind continued to rebel against God before God's law was spelled out in the Ten Commandments, and the many commands given to Moses.

6. The effects of Adam's sin did not just fall upon himself. His sin had far-reaching effects.

Genesis 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

7. This verse is just three chapters after the fall of man in Adam's sin. How pervasive was sin, but in its breadth, and in its depth?

DAY 4: The grace of God has more power than Adam's sin had to bring misery (5:15-19)

Romans 5:15 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 *Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the 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 the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.*

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.*

1. This passage contains five contrasts made between Adam and Christ, what Adam did and what Christ did, and the consequences of what both did.

The **first** contrast between Adam and Christ revolves around the words "gift" and "trespass" (sin).

- a. What was the consequence of Adam's trespass? (5:15)

- b. What was the result of the "gift" that came by the grace of Jesus?

2. The **second** contrast between Adam and Christ comes in 5:16.

- a. What were the consequences of Adam's sin?

- b. What were the results of the "gift" provided by Christ?

3. In the **third** contrast Paul reiterates Adam's sin and its awful consequences. But Paul expands on more of the benefits of Christ's coming! What are three benefits that come from Christ? (5:17)

4. The **fourth** contrast is between condemnation coming because of Adam and justification coming because of Christ. (5:18)

5. The **fifth** contrast opens the door for God's grace to shine brightest! What is possible for us? (5:19)

DAY 5: As grace did abound... (5:20-21)

Romans 5:20 The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

1. After humans sin or do something stupid, you can usually hear things like:

- a. "I should have known better!"
- b. "How could I have been sooooo stupid?!?!"
- c. "I didn't know I was supposed to do _____."
- d. "Why didn't somebody tell me?"

2. Each of these are examples of minimizing our personal responsibility for our choices. They also assume that if we did something wrong it's because we didn't know better or remember. But our sin nature runs much deeper than just a "knowledge" problem. Is this your usual pattern of response after sin or messing up?

3. When the law was given to Moses, our supposed "knowledge" problem disappeared. There should have been less excuse-making for sin. This is what is meant by the last part of 5:20. It's not that sin "increased" in **number**. It increased in **awareness**.

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.

4. The fallen world we live in is daunting ("sin reigned in death").

5. But a different "reign" is possible. How? (5:21)

6. What does Jesus Christ want to do in His people?

Romans 5 summary:

(1) The blessings of justification (5:1-11), and (2) The basis of justification (5:12-21). What struck you most from Romans 5?