

ROMANS 5-8

ROMANS 5 | WEEK 1: DEC 6, 2015

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 5-8

Having laid the foundation in chapters 1-4, Paul is beginning to build the structure: a picture of Christian life in which all the ancient promises of God are coming true. And at the center of these promises is the establishment of a loving, welcoming personal relationship between individual humans and the creator God himself.

Principally, Romans 5-8 functions to spell out the meaning and character of justification.

SUMMARY OF ROMANS 5-8

After a preliminary exposition of justification in 5:1-11, he sets out the story of those who, through justification, have moved from outside Christ into Christ. He tells this story from three narrative perspectives, focusing on three sets of antitheses highlighting three distinct yet interrelated themes:

<i>Text</i>	<i>Narrative Perspective</i>	<i>Antithesis</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Cross</i>
5:1-11	[overview]	enemies v friends	justification as reconciliation	the cross as God's love
5:12-21	cosmic, or salvation historical	Adam v Christ	free from sin, under grace	Christ's cross as his obedience
6:1-7:6	baptismal	slavery to sin v Slavery to righteousness	dead to sin, alive to God	crucifixion with Christ
7:7-8:39	existential	flesh v Spirit	in the Spirit, not in the flesh	believers' death to the old life, suffering

ROMANS 5

Roman 5:1-11

1-2a Justification through Christ

2b-5 Hope for future glory

6-8 Christ death as God's love

9-10 Hope for future salvation

11 Reconciliation through Christ

Peace and Hope

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God (5:1)
 Temple language, coming into God's presence (5:2)
 We glory in our sufferings, which produces perseverance, character, hope (5:3-4)
 The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Spirit (5:5)

Jesus' Death Reveals God's Love and Salvation

At the right time, Christ died for the ungodly, which demonstrates God's love (5:6-8)
 Justified by Christ's blood, how much more will we be saved from God's wrath! (5:9-11)

Adam v Christ

Death entered through Adam; grace comes through Christ (5:12-15)
 Death reigned through Adam; righteousness reigns in life through Christ (5:16-17)
 These verses insist that putting humankind to rights is a far, far greater thing than simply a reversal of Adam's sin and its results.

The Triumph of Grace

One act of obedience v one act of obedience (5:18-19)
 The law increased the trespass, but grace increased all the more (5:20)
 Grace reigns through righteousness to bring eternal life (5:21)
 These verses emphasize the universality both of Adam's sin and of Jesus' saving act. And the introduction of the law intensified the problem of sin in humanity. The law draws attention to sin but is powerless to do anything about stopping it by itself.

ADAM AND CHRIST

	<i>Adam's Deed</i>	<i>Consequences</i>	<i>Christ's Deed</i>	<i>Consequences</i>
15	trespass	many died	(free/gracious) gift, grace	the grace of God and the free gift abounded/overflow/have overflowed for the many
16	sin/sinning one trespass	many trespasses, judgment, condemnation	(free) gift	justification/acquittal
17	trespass/Transgression	death exercised dominion/came to reign/reigned	abundance/abundant provision of grace, free gift of righteousness/justification	exercise dominion in life/(come to) reign in life
18	trespass	condemnation for all	act of righteousness	justification/acquittal and life for all
19	disobedience	many were made sinners	obedience	many will be made righteousness