



Relentless Grace: How the Gospel Changes Everything

Paul's Letter to the Romans

Session 6 – Peace with God | Romans Chapter 5

How are you doing so far in our Romans studies? We've been following Paul, step by logical step through some pretty steep terrain. Like a seasoned guide, Paul walked us through the first four chapters mapping out dead-end trails and superficial shortcuts that lost men follow. By now, we know that the only clear path to God is by grace through faith in Jesus.

What makes a strenuous hike worth the effort? The view of course! In chapter five, we reach a summit. It's a good place to stop and take it all in. From this vantage point the gospel, switchbacks and all, is beginning to make sense. See how one man's sin brought death. See the One whose death brought life. Absorb the scenery of God's surrounding grace.

Icebreaker

Up to this point, what has been a highlight of studying Romans?

Goals for this Session:

- Discover the benefits and results of being justified by faith.
- Consider how God uses trials to shape our character.
- Pray for grace and opportunities to live out the gospel in daily life.

Peace with God

Romans 5:1–11

Paul describes the benefits and results of being justified by faith.

1. We have peace with God, here and now. And we rejoice in anticipation (hope) of the glory of the God.

- a. What terms does Paul use to describe our condition before salvation? (verses 8, 10)

What grace does ...

Grace brings you to the cross where you see Jesus, exposed and shamed, disfigured by every filthy thought and vile act ever committed. So repugnant that the Father turns away from His Son. "That's my sin," you say. "I'm the guilty one."

Grace brings you to the empty grave where you see Jesus, resurrected and victorious. "All is forgiven," He says. "The Father's arms are opened wide."

- b. What does it mean to have peace and be reconciled with God?

- c. What is this "hope of glory" that Paul refers to in verse 2? Note the verses below, then answer in your own words.

Mark 13:26

Colossians 3:4

1 John 3:2

2. **What's the point?** (verses 3–5) Life is trouble, guaranteed. But we tend to take the Dr. Seuss approach: "If I watch out for rocks with my eyes straight ahead, I'll keep out of trouble forever," I said.¹

Paul doesn't explain what causes trouble or if some trials can be avoided (more on that later in the letter). He explains what trials produce.

- a. How do trials shape our character?

#wordstoknow

Greek words/terms at a glance.

peace (eirene) Not a feeling, a fact; being at peace with God.

tribulation (thlipsis) Pressure, anguish, distress of all kinds.

perseverance (hupomone) A quality that does not succumb, quit, or lose hope in the midst of trouble.

character (dokime) A quality or trait that has been proven true through fire, combat, or competition.

hope (elpis) Sure expectation of a promised outcome.

¹ Dr. Seuss, *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew* (New York: Random House, 1965).

- b. Remember, being *justified* means we don't have to earn God's love and forgiveness. How does knowing this shape our response to trials? Give a simple answer in your own words.

Hebrews 12:7, 10–11

1 Peter 4:12–13, 19

2 Timothy 2:1–6

3. How is God's love for us different than any human love? Consider verses 6–8 for help with your answer.

“Do you realize how much you are loved by God? Despite our sin, God never stops loving us. That's the gospel. You were worse off than you thought you were, but God has loved you more than you could ever have imagined.”

Greg Laurie

Memory Verse

As you memorize this verse, let it sink in and make it part of your prayers. Ask the Holy Spirit to examine your heart and increase your understanding.

“God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8 NKJV

Think About It . . .

Look up. What does this verse teach you about God?

Look around. What does this indicate about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you a reason to hope? In what way?

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

Diagram of the Gospel

Romans 5:12–21

Paul reviews how Adam's sin brought death and Christ's death brought life.

1. The rest of this chapter is a comparison of **one man** (Adam) and **one Man** (Christ). In essence, Paul draws us a diagram of the gospel and grace. Write down the actions of each one and what came as a result. (Verses 18–19 are similar statements with a different emphasis.)

	Adam	Christ
v.15		
v.16		
v.17		
v.18		
v.19		

Paul took five chapters to give a clear and complete explanation of the gospel. Adam brought sin into the world and immediately tried to hide it. Tried to excuse it. We have all inherited that sin nature.

2. *How the gospel changes everything.* Paul finishes this section with an astounding statement: “Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.” When we consider the big picture and our own pin-dot experience in it, the power of the gospel is good news all over again.
- a. The gospel is incentive to live a guilt-free life. By this, we mean coming to God with no fear of rejection or judgment (see Hebrews 10:19–22). It’s a rare individual who never struggles with feelings of guilt (Paul addresses that more later). But is there ever a time we should hesitate to approach our heavenly Father? Why or why not?

 - b. The gospel is incentive to live a grace-abounding life. Paul talks more about grace in the next chapter, but for now consider what he says here. Simply put, grace is greater than our sin. In fact, the term Paul uses means “super-abounding.” Where, and in what way, could you use some super-abounding grace today? Be practical and specific.

1 John 4:7–8

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 4:5–6



Gospel at a Glance: Guilt or Grace? “God’s answer to Adam’s sin could have been swift and severe. He could have spoken the universe out of existence as easily as He had created it, and He would have been no less holy to do so. How can a good, all-powerful God tolerate the presence of evil? The answer is . . . **Grace. Undeserved favor. Inexplicable mercy.** The Lord, moved by love, confronted Adam with his sin. *Where are you?* It was a bold invitation to come out of hiding. At the right time, God confronted humanity with our sin by giving us the Law. Through the Law, His wrath blows into our garden and boldly urges us to come out of hiding. We are right to fear His wrath, but foolish to distrust His grace. After all, if His chief desire were to execute the just penalty of sin, He would have done that already.

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live the guiltless life we cannot live, to die the atoning death we deserve, to rise again and claim new life on our behalf, and to usher those who believe in Him into a completely new kind of existence. His gift is free, extended by grace, received through faith. So the choice is yours. Guilt or grace?”
- Charles Swindoll*

* Charles Swindoll, *Insights on Romans* (Illinois: Tyndale House, 2015), 133.

Adoration **C**onfession **T**hankfulness **S**upplication

“Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18 NIV

In each session, we will pray—for ourselves, for others, for our church, and for our nation. As a focus for prayer, use the memory verse, another scripture, or what the Lord has impressed on you from the chapter. No need to be profound or elaborate, just authentic.

Write a simple prayer, including each element here.

A _____

C _____

T _____

S _____

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