

The Letter of St. Paul to the ROMANS

IV

OPENING WORSHIP

To begin your Bible study, read together **Isaiah 55:6-13**. God's word refreshes the soul and makes it flourish with the joy of forgiveness!

OUTLINE

Theme: Righteousness from God

- I. Introduction (1:1-17)
 - a. Author, recipients, greeting (1:1-7)
 - b. Thanksgiving and petitions (1:8-15)
 - c. Theme of the letter: Righteousness from God (1:16,17)
- II. All lack righteousness (1:18-3:20)
 - a. Others lack righteousness (1:18-32)
 - b. You lack righteousness (2:1-3:20)
 - c. You who judge (2:1-16)
 - d. You who have the law (2:17-3:1)
 - e. Any questions? (3:1-20)
- III. Righteousness comes from God (3:21-4:25)
 - a. Not through works, but through faith (3:21-31)
 - b. A case study: Abraham (4:1-25)
- IV. The effects of God's righteousness (5:1-8:39)
 - a. Peace and Confidence (5)
 - i. In the present (5:1-5)
 - ii. For the future (5:6-11)
 - iii. Because of the past (5:12-21)
 - b. Freedom from sin (6)
 - i. The reality of baptism. (6:1-8)
 - ii. The power of baptism. (6:11-14)
 - iii. Freedom and slavery (6:15-23)
 - c. Freedom from the law (7)
 - i. Dying to the law. (7:1-6)
 - ii. Law and sin in the unbeliever (7:7-13)
 - iii. Law and sin in the believer (7:14-25)
 - d. Freedom from death (8)
 - i. Because we already died (8:1-17)
 - ii. Even though it still looks like we're dying (8:18-39)
- V. God's righteousness in dealing with Israel (9:1-11:36)
- VI. God's righteousness put into practice and Conclusion (12:1-16:17)

A CASE STUDY: ABRAHAM

Quickly review what you read last week in **Romans 4:1-25**.

One of the questions the Jews were wrestling with in Paul's day was whether a Gentile had to become a (circumcised) Jew before he could become a Christian. What was the connection between circumcision and Abraham's justification (v. 9-12)? How did circumcision relate to justification in Paul's day?

Discuss the meaning of verse 15: *Where there is no law there is no transgression.*

Describe Abraham's faith. How does it compare to your faith today? In what ways was it similar or different?

In verses 22-24 Paul talks about God *crediting* righteousness through faith. Describe what this picture means to you.

Look closely at verse 25. For whom did Jesus die? For whom did Jesus rise again? What does this say about God's justification?

The term for the justification described in Romans 4:25 is:

_____.

INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 5

God has justified us in Christ. Through Jesus our sins have been removed, and in their place stands the righteousness of Christ. Through the powerful working of God the Holy Spirit, we appropriate this completed gift, and Jesus' obedience becomes our own.

Now Paul celebrates the practical results of God's righteous verdict. Peace and joy, confidence and hope, salvation from wrath – all these and more are ours because of God's gracious gift.

PEACE AND CONFIDENCE

Read Romans 5:1-11 and answer the following questions:

Describe what Paul means by "*peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (v. 5).

Explain the meaning of verse 2: *Through [Jesus] 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.*

How do you feel when you have a splitting headache? When you are facing surgery? When you lose a loved one? When you are ridiculed for Christ? When death knocks at your door? Why can we really "*also rejoice in our sufferings*"?

Describe what these words mean to you:

Perseverance

Character

Hope

In Ephesians 1:13,14 the Holy Spirit is described as a deposit guaranteeing what is to come. In Romans 5:5, Paul uses similar language. What does this mean for you?

Consider verses 6-8. How does this section illustrate that God’s salvation is entirely a one-sided accomplishment?

When Paul says, “*while we were still sinners, Christ died for us,*” what is he implying about sinners?

THE FIRST ADAM AND THE SECOND ADAM

Read Romans 5:12-21. The contrast here is between the first Adam and the second Adam (Christ). Identify the points of similarity and contrast between Adam and Jesus.

	The First Adam	The Second Adam (Jesus Christ)
How did each handle temptation?	Genesis 3:6	Hebrews 4:15
What consequence came from each?	Romans 5:12 Romans 5:16	Romans 5:17 Romans 5:16
Whom did the consequences fall upon?	Romans 5:18	Romans 5:18
Complete the diagram:	Romans 5:19 Disobedience ⇒	Romans 5:19 Obedience ⇨

Jesus’ obedience now stands as the perfect substitute for the sin of the world. This universal substitution of the righteousness of Christ for the sin of the world is called:

For discussion:

How do people view death today? Do people take death seriously? What perspective should humans have on death?

What does Paul mean when he says, “*The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more*” (v. 20)?

How does v. 20 bring you comfort personally when you’re faced with the reality and weight of things you’ve done and failed to do?

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

For next time read Romans chapters 5 and 6.

Consider how the peace and joy you have in Christ enables you to face life’s challenges.