

Romans: The Foundation of Our Faith

Student Study Guide

Part Four

*Unless otherwise marked scripture is from the NKJV Bible.

Review

Truth statements from Romans 5:1-11 of the superiority of the Gospel.
Christ died for your unrighteousness.

Romans 5:6

You were without strength, and too morally weak to live a righteous life before God.

Romans 5:8

You were a sinner disobeying God. But God loved me as a sinner and had Jesus Christ die on your behalf.

Romans 5:10

You were an enemy of God and at war with Him.

Romans 5:11

You have reason to rejoice over the blessings that you have received.

Verse 1: (Romans Chapter 5)

You are justified by faith.

You have peace with God through your Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 2:

You have access by faith into this grace wherein you stand.

You rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Verse 3:

You rejoice in tribulations.

You know that tribulation can produce perseverance.

Verse 4:

You know that perseverance can produce character.

You know that a test of character can produce hope.

Verse 5:

You know that hope makes you anything but ashamed.

The love of God is in your heart resulting from the ministry of the Holy Spirit in you.

Verse 9:

You are justified by blood, and saved from wrath.

Verse 10:

You are reconciled to God.

The superiority of the Gospel.

You are released from slavery that is produced from the forced obedience to rules.

You are fundamentally and spiritually changed so that your relationship with God is based entirely on His love for you and the return of that love to Him.

Death brought about by sin; the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ brought you the free gift of God, eternal life with Him.

Romans 5:12-21

12Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

13(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

16And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification.

17For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

18Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life.

19For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

20Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,

21so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The family of Adam and the family of Jesus Christ.

Adam was the head of the old creation, man was born as a member of Adam's race, but now Jesus Christ IS the Head of the New Creation and Believers are members of God's Royal Family and Priesthood.

Having faith like Abraham will bridge the gap for God's provision of righteousness found in Jesus Christ. Becoming a member of Jesus' race and being born again is a result of faith.

Four Characteristics of the family of Adam:
Disobedience, Sin, Condemnation and Death.

Four Characteristics of the family of Jesus Christ:
Obedience, Righteousness, Justification and Life.

These four exactly match, they are the complete opposites of the other.
Notice in these two lists everything we did not have in Adam, Jesus has turned it around for you and you now have it all in Jesus Christ, absolute life and life eternal.

The abundance of grace.

Romans 5:12-21

Paul uses the term, grace, 5 times.

Paul's terms are: Grace; the grace of God; the abundance of grace.

Grace meaning: Unearned and undeserved favor of God.

Paul also uses a close but different term, gift, 6 times.

Paul's terms are: free gift; gift by grace; gift of righteousness.

Gift meaning: Endowment of grace.

These two words are not interchangeable. Grace must always be viewed as unmerited, unearned, or undeserved. The act of God in transferring or bestowing grace is always a gift, and a separate act from the grace itself.

Grace, is the product, Gift, is the delivery system.

Grace is upon all men but a gift given benefits nothing if it is not received or accepted.

There is grace and gifts that are at work in your life that you have received as an endowment, as a gift of God. But if you resist those gifts and they are not active in your life then the grace that is upon those gifts is not active either.

Summary statement of Romans 5:17, that have you received:

The abundance of grace,
the gift of righteousness,
the position to reign in life by Jesus Christ.

The freedom issue.

Burning within men is a desire for freedom but what they truly need is freedom from sin.

Romans Chapter 5 shows that it is possible to have freedom from sin and victory over the power of sin!

Freedom is real and the grace of God is in great abundance in the presence of great sin.

There are two opposing positions to Romans Chapter 5, both positions are scriptural error.

Position 1 If, God's grace abounds when you sin, then let yourself continue sinning so you might experience more grace.

This is answered in Romans 6:1-14.

Position 2 If, you are no longer under the Law of Moses, then you are free to live however you please. God's primary and favorite activity is forgiving you.

The people who practice this are called Antinomians.

This is answered in Romans 6:15 - 7:6.

These positions listed above show a lack of understanding of the grace of God, the Law of Moses, and a lack of understanding of the issue and concept of freedom in Christ Jesus. Those who use such statements, do not believe the Book of Romans at all.

Romans 6:1-10

1What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

2Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

3Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His* resurrection,

6knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

7For he who has died has been freed from sin.

8Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

9knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

10For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God.

Key Word: Know

Know, is an appeal to your intellect and your mind.

Romans 6:3, 6:6, and 6:9, Paul uses the word, know.

Be ready to give an answer for the **reason** of your visible joy and for the hope that lies within you.

In your new relationship with God, Apostle Paul wants you to **know** two things:

1. You are now DEAD to sin. This does not mean that you are not capable of sinning.

Types of death: Physical death, spiritual death, death to sin.

Your relationship to sin as a born-again Believer:

Sin no longer has power over you, as it did before you submitted your life to Jesus Christ and to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

You should respond to sin as if you are a dead man lying in a funeral casket with his eyes closed totally unmoved by the temptation of sin. Therefore, you are no longer to serve sin as a slave serves a master.

2. You are now ALIVE in Christ. A new part of your relationship with Christ is that you can now identify many parts of your life and personality that is affected by your life in Jesus.

Your life in Jesus Christ:

New life means that your future, your destiny, your reason for living, and your day-to-day attitudes come alive and into proper identity through your relationship with Jesus Christ. When you know you have a destiny founded in Christ Jesus it will change your attitude. If you put on a bad attitude, you forgot your destiny, go back and pick up your Christ centered fellowship.

Romans 6:11

11Likewise you also, **reckon** yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Key Word: Reckon

Reckon does not mean, I think or I suppose, but deals with your faith and what you have decided to accept to be real.

Reckon meaning: Count it to your account, or consider it to be true.

You are not instructed to feel dead to sin, but to accept the fact that you are dead to sin, now, act upon that fact.

The result of when you reckon:

You accept the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf by faith in Him and His Word.
You consider it to be true, that you are dead to sin and alive to the will of God.

Romans 6:12-23

12Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

13And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

14For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

15What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

17But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

19I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves *of* righteousness for holiness.

20For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

21What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death.

22But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

23For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Key Word: Yield

Consciously yielding your will to the plan and will of Jesus Christ. Your will and God's will are very different. When you yield your will to God it will affect your choices in life, your attitudes each day, and all of your behavior.

Reasons you should yield your will to God.

1. You yield because of **favor**, God's favor to you. You are saved by grace, but that does not give you an excuse to sin, it gives you a good reason to obey the will of God.
2. You yield because of **freedom**. Your limits must include responsibility. You are totally free to do what is right, there is no law against doing right. True freedom is only found in yielding to Jesus Christ. In your freedom, you discover that you will always have a master.

You are not an independent king of your own castle; you are given the opportunity of the freedom to choose which master you will serve.

3. You yield because of **fruit**.

The Wages or The Gift.

The Wages of Sin or The Gift of God, Jesus Christ.

Know, Reckon, Yield. You are now under new ownership, in accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. You are also under new management. Give yourself willingly and gratefully unto the will of God. It is possible to accept the new ownership but resist the new management.

If God tells you to do, or not to do something, and you can say no, then Jesus is not your LORD yet. God doesn't want to coach you with his wisdom, He wants you to put your life literally in His hands so that, He makes the decisions and you learn to like it.

Romans 7:1-6

1Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

2For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband.

3So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

4Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

5For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

6But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

Freedom from sin and freedom from the law.

The first six verses of Romans Chapter 7 finishes Paul's response from the end of Romans Chapter 6 addressing the statement.

If, we are no longer under the Law of Moses, then we are free to live as we please.

Paul's response in Romans 6:15 is, God forbid!

This phrase is a Jewish idiom meaning, may it never be so, do not even think that thought.

Spiritual liberation.

The word liberation, is often used in describing a cruel dictator, or the release of prisoners who have been wrongfully imprisoned.

You have freedom. You have truly been set free from the old life, including freedom from the Law of Moses. You owe no debt to your old life. You have freedom from the condemnation that the Law of Moses brings.

The Law of Moses defines sin for you, it also gives you an awareness, and even an arousal of sin. Freedom of the new life, brings a knowledge of the awfulness of sin, and the great responsibility that always accompanies great privilege.

In freedom you know you are dead to sin; you know you are now alive in Christ. Reckon, or count this knowledge as truth, taking God at His word, then, you yield yourself to His will and His purpose.

This process will require several things from you:

1. **DECISION:** To submit your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and accept Him as your personal Savior. There will be more that happens in your life later.
2. **DEDICATION:** You must purpose in your heart and mind to obey the Scripture, and to do His revealed will. He will turn off the tap of revelation until you apply what He has already given you. Don't lessen your responsibility through disobedience.
3. **YIELD:** This is a conscious and continual yielding of your will to the will and purposes of God in your voluntary choices and attitudes. Some express this as a moment-by-moment yielding. Yielding to His will, decision by decision.

The name of this process as described in Romans Chapter 6 is sanctification. While Paul does not use this particular term here of sanctification, he uses all the dynamics and mechanics that define of sanctification.

Question: Is sanctification an event, a onetime experience or is sanctification a lifelong process?

Answer: Yes! Both, they work together.

Sanctification as an event is seen in Romans 12:1-2

Sanctification is the power of God, to live by faith on a daily basis.

Romans 7:7-13

7What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

8But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead.

9I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.

10And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death.

11For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.

12Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

13Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

What the law of Moses does.

Romans 7:7

The Law of Moses defines and reveals sin.

Romans 7:8-9

The Law of Moses arouses an awareness of sin.

Romans 7:10-11

The Law of Moses alone will kill.

Romans 7:12-13

The Law of Moses shows you the sinfulness of sin.

The Law of Moses brings to your knowledge a definition of evil and you are continually reminded of that sin. The Law of Moses gives you a consciousness of sin.

When this reminder of sin is given to men and women who have no power, then the knowledge of sin can develop into an attraction.

The 'Wet Paint' sign, and the urge to want to touch the wet paint, is an example of the arousal of sin.

Balancing your checkbook bank register is not the real reason that you are overdrawn. Balancing your register simply states the facts that already exists.

It is the Holy Spirits job to remind you of your overdrawn spiritual state.

Two problems for us, known as license and legalism.

License: The self-centered justification of wrongdoing and sinful behavior, by any course of reason and logic, simply spits disrespect in the face of a loving God.

License allows you to do anything you want.

Major flaw: Future sins are not pre-forgiven.

Legalism: This position says that I can become holy and pleasing to God by obeying a set of rules. Spiritual legalism can be determined by a checklist of Do's and Don'ts.

Major flaw: Legalism judges by the outward appearance.

The problems of legalism:

1. Pretending that all is well, even when it is not.
2. Complete moral collapse and an abandonment of and godly living at all.
3. Extremely critical attitude, with a position of complete unforgiveness of others.

Romans 7:14-25

14For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

15For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

16If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.

17But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

19For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice.

20Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

21I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

22For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

23But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.
24O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
25I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!
So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

What the law of Moses cannot do.

Romans 7:14

The Law of Moses cannot change your heart.

Romans 7:15-21

The Law of Moses cannot enable you to do good.

Romans 7:21-24

The Law of Moses can lock you up but it cannot set you free.

A courtroom scenario.

Romans Chapter 7 has been discussed and debated for centuries. There are major implications within your life that will result from the interpretation of this passage.

You - The jury Me - The lawyer presenting both sides of the case.

As a jury, you want a clear and honest presentation of all the meaningful facts.

Their Position: Is a contradiction of Scripture and is an opinion that hinders personal edification and personal growth in Jesus Christ.

We have the old nature as sinners. As a result of the rebirth, we now possess two natures at the same time:

One nature is dominated and ruled by sin.

The other nature is like Christ.

Life is spent in constant indecisiveness and frustration. Serving sin in the works of the flesh, and then flip, serving the will of God with the fruit of the Spirit, and then flip, serving sin again. This can occur so quickly as to appear to be happening both, at the same time.

Two-lane highway illustration:

One lane shows someone progressing along their discipleship path going down the road in the correct lane with the flow of traffic, at whatever speed, and then they begin to drift over into the wrong line of traffic going the other direction. Then through some spiritual pressure they drift back over into the correct lane of traffic again. The traffic in the opposite direction, going the wrong way, is a backslidden state and when you come back in the right lane again you will have lost considerable ground in your development in the Spirit.

Their position, would argue that they are able to demonstrate the power of Jesus Christ to the world. By their drunken weaving lifestyle of inconsistency, and through their lack of power to choose obedience to the will of God in their lives, that they will see many come to them desiring that which they possess in salvation.

Nick-named: Sunday disciple and Monday sinners.

They claim they are living in Romans Chapter 7 and that the power that the Creator of the Universe has given them by Jesus' death and resurrection, that they now have access to everlasting frustration and embarrassment in their lives.

Spiritualized car illustration:

There is a vehicle in my driveway that is in need of repair. My friendly and well-meaning neighbor arrives with some help. He has brought to me a new tire, mounted on the correct size rim, inflated to the proper pressure. He is not discouraged to find that I have 4 flat tires. One tire is not really of much help. So, we search and find another tire from a positive thinker, and another tire from a self-help support group, and even another tire from some religion nonsense. Now I have four good tires on the car. Has my well-meaning neighbor helped me? Sure, he has. But until I am willing to investigate further, and admit to him and myself that I do not have a motor, or any fuel, or any way to even steer the car, four tires is not much good to me. The magnitude of my need is so far beyond help that is available from other people, their help becomes, effectively, no help at all.

My Position: As sinners we have the old nature, dominated as slaves to sin. Those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord have received the, new birth, regenerating their spirit to life anew. New Character and new nature.

You do not need behavior modification but, a spiritual rebirth. That is what Jesus offers in John 3:1-21 when He is speaking to Nicodemus.

A change in the nature of our being that will result in different behavior.

It is not behavior that is our problem it is our nature.

It is not sins, but sin that is your problem.

Reject the presentation that Jesus Christ, the Mighty Creator God of Genesis Chapter 1, has done His very best work in you, and you still remain a defective person.

Jesus has offered to:

Make you new

Make you whole

Give you spiritual rebirth

Change your heart

Change your motives

Change your thinking

Change your actions

As a Lawyer, I implore you to reject, the presentation that you are forgiven but you remain in much the same sad shape that you were in before Jesus. Accept, and now believe, that the power of God made available through the substitutionary blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ and has changed you from what you were to a regenerated and righteous man, a Christian Believer, a Christ-follower, now acceptable in the sight of God because of the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

You were a sinner saved by grace as quickly as time moves from one second to the next second, that's how quick you went from being a sinner to saint!

I Corinthians 6:9-11 NIV

9Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

10nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the

11And that is what some of you were. But you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the spirit of our God.

The message of Romans Chapter 6, yield your members to righteousness, it is possible!

Romans 8:1-4 NIV

1Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

3For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so, he condemned sin in sinful man,

4in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

The message of Romans Chapter 8.

Some commentators have written that there is a great conflict or tension between Chapters 7 and 8 of Romans. These commentators say it is almost as if Chapters 6, 7, and 8 all had different people writing them. They have argued that you live in Chapter 7 defeated and sinful and you very rarely visit Chapter 8.

Determine to know and live your life in Romans Chapter 8. Twenty-one times Paul mentions Life and Spirit in Romans Chapter 8, Paul intends for you to live a spirit filled, empowered life free from the Law of sin and death.

Romans Chapter 7 clearly describes the old Saul of Tarsus before his conversion experience, now Paul the Apostle.

Romans Chapters 8 describe the freedom and life of the born-again Believer.

Romans 8:1

The word, NOW is a stark contrast to Romans Chapter 7.

Many have accepted deliverance from the guilt of sin, but only some accept the deliverance from the power of sin.

Do not stretch Romans Chapters 7 and 8 to fit your experience.

Rather, let your experience and theology be shaped and formed by Romans Chapters 7 and 8.

Reasons why people accept an interpretation of Romans that is so different than what Paul intended:

1. They were told by a person that they respected.
Examine what you believe with the context and meaning of Scripture.
2. Their personal experience does not include a belief in the message of Romans 8:3, but what the Law could not do, God did.
3. Freedom with responsibility scares them. Desiring to going back to prison or back to slavery in Egypt.
4. Those in bondage do not want to see you in the freedom that is found in Jesus Christ.
5. They need a scapegoat, other than themselves, to blame for their immoral behavior.

There is always MORE for you in your walk in with Jesus! There is a future that is filled with the blessings of the freedom of the Spirit of God. Accept the fullness of this message from Paul in Chapter 8. It is all meant for you to have in your possession!

Preparing for further study in the book of Romans:

Chapters 9, 10, and 11 in the Book of Romans are Paul's presentation concerning the future, and the end time of the Jewish nation and their status in salvation.

Mark Palmer has found in his presentation of the Book of Romans is:

If, you leave Chapter 8 and go into all the Jewish future end time details, then by the time you get to Chapter 12, you have forgotten what was in Chapter 8. Chapters 9, 10 and 11 of the Book of Romans are what are called in literature, an *aside*.

Explaining the literary *Aside* in the book of Romans:

Paul stops his material at the end of Chapter 8 and steps over and deals with Jewish answers and at the end of Chapter 11, Paul steps back over in his writing to the topic of spiritual gifting where he was at the end of Chapter 8.

This is what we're going to do in our next class. We will set aside Chapters 9, 10 and 11 for another time of study. Next class we are going to pick up right here at the end of Chapter 8 and go directly into Romans Chapter 12 with the theme, the life of the Believer in ministry and their relationship to other people, activities and what to do with your life.

Academically and spiritually, this is a proper approach for our study in the Book of Romans.

Before next class please read Chapter 8 and then skip over and read Chapter 12.

