

## **A Study in Romans**

### **Study Five Romans 5:1-6:4**

#### **Day One**

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

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.

3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;

4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.

v. 1 – Peace with God! Of all the peace in the world, this is the most fulfilling, rewarding, and important. If there is peace with God, then there must also be people who have no peace and are even at war with God. It has always amazed me that there are people who aren't just apathetic about God—they hate Him! What a state to be in!

When the angels appeared when Jesus was born, they said:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests"  
(Luke 2:14).

God's favor rests on those who put their trust in Him, period. We may not think that someone is worthy of God's favor, but that doesn't matter. Only what God thinks really matters. If God is pleased with you, don't fight it. Accept His peace.

v. 2 – Faith brings peace, and faith is our access to the grace of God. Faith is the currency with which we do business with God. I have done a complete study of every verse on faith in the New Testament and titled it "The Faith Files." You can access them at [http://www.purposequest.com/bible\\_studies.htm](http://www.purposequest.com/bible_studies.htm). There is no more important study to do, for faith is at the crux of our walk with God. If you don't master faith, you won't prosper in the will of God. Do you agree?

vs. 3&4 – Paul said that he rejoiced in his sufferings. He didn't tolerate or endure them, he celebrated them! Why? Because they produced good things in his life. The order was suffering to perseverance to character to hope.

How do you feel about suffering? Do you thank God for its results or do you complain and try to end it as soon as possible? Everyone wants character (the literal Greek word here is "experience"), but character doesn't come easily or by reading a book. It comes through suffering and putting your hope in God that He will either strengthen you in the suffering or bring the suffering to an end.

There are many verses on suffering in the New Testament and Jesus' life is a model of suffering. I would urge you to study (or at least meditate on) suffering today.

### **Day Two**

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 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.

v. 5 – Life is full of disappointments. Events don't turn out as we hope. People don't perform as we expected them to; even those close to us can let us down. But putting our hope in God never disappoints because we are not putting our hope in a thing or another human. When you put your expectations in God and trust Him, you cannot be disappointed in the results, for you know the results are from Him.

Plus the love of God comes into our hearts in the power of the Spirit. There is only way to have the love of God in your heart, and that is for God Himself to put it there and to maintain it. Since God lives in me, I have His love to give others whenever I choose to express that love.

v. 6 – Jesus died for us at the right time. God always works in the “right time.” It may not be my timetable, but His timing is always perfect. I have often said that while Israel was crying out for a Savior, Mary was changing His diapers. God doesn't seem to be in a hurry, but when He finally acts, it is decisive, powerful and perfect.

Does it seem like God is moving slowly on your behalf? Perhaps you think that He has forgotten you? He hasn't. He will move for you at the right time, not from your perspective, but from His.

v. 7 – Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice—dying for the ungodly. Paul pointed out that someone may give their life on behalf of a good man, but not for a bad man. But Jesus died on behalf of evil people, like you and me. If Jesus did that for you when you were evil, what will He do now that you are reconciled to God?

v. 8 – Since we are to follow Jesus, then we too should give our lives for people who aren't worthy of the gift we give. We don't give our lives for them, however; we give our lives according to His will. We do it for *Him*, trusting Him that our sacrifice is acceptable to Him. Mankind will seldom appreciate our sacrifice, but we don't do it for men. We give our lives for God!

This is certainly in line with what Jesus said:

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:32-36).

Jesus never told us to do anything that He was not willing to do. Jesus is our role model. What good can you do today to someone who is not worthy of your kind acts?

### **Day Three**

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.

v. 9 – Some people I know act like God is mad at everyone in the church and the world. God is not angry! Even if He is, I am not sure that He would direct some of the people I know to be the communicator of His anger. God loves the world and is reaching out to unrighteous men, offering them the opportunity to repent. What message are you carrying? One of an angry God, or one that speaks of God's great love and offer of peace through the blood of Jesus?

v. 10 – There are others I know who are angry at believers, for the moral or other failures of leaders and followers alike. But God doesn't just save us from our past sins; God saves us from our future sins as well! This is the grace of God! God forgives non-believers and believers. Do you carry the grace of God for all people?

Now as soon as you mention this, people think that you are saying that there are no consequences for sin. That is not true. But I can still extend the grace of God to someone who has failed and let God deal with the restitution or restoration.

v. 11 – I am reconciled to God and I hope you are, too. I now have access to God through the blood of Jesus and I have access to God. Read what the writer of Hebrews had to say:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16).

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water (Hebrews 10:19-22).

When you fail, don't run *from* God, run *to* God. You are reconciled to Him, not by your own goodness, but by His grace.

#### **Day Four**

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.

v. 12 – Paul was referring to Adam. Sin entered the world through one man and death was the result, not just for Adam, but for all his descendants. Some theologians believe that the power of sin is actually passed on through the seed of man so that it has “infected” every generation. Whatever the dynamic, the power of sin is real and has affected everyone.

v. 13 – Obviously the Law was not instituted until long after Adam was dead. Yet sin was present from the time of Adam's sin. Yet man was not conscious of sin until God described through the Law what righteous behavior was. It was at that time that man found out he could not keep the Law because of sin.

v. 14 – Just because men from Adam to Moses were not aware of sin did not mean that they were not subject to the effects of sin, namely death. The principle and consequence of sin were working, but man wasn't conscious of sin.

What was Paul saying? Simply that the power of sin was introduced through one man. He was setting the stage to point out the power of the righteousness that was also introduced through one man, namely Jesus. And this power was not simply available to Jews, but to Jews and Gentiles, who were both under the power of Adam's sin.

Read what one commentator wrote about this passage:

"The consequences of Christ's obedience extend as far as the consequences of Adam's disobedience. The consequences of Adam's disobedience extend to all mankind; and therefore, so do the consequences of Christ's obedience. Now, if the Jews will not allow the Gentiles any interest in Abraham, as not being naturally descended from him, yet they must own that the Gentiles are the descendants of Adam, as well as themselves; and being all equally involved in the consequences of his sin, from which" (as far as the death of the body is concerned) "they shall all equally be released at the resurrection, through the free gift of God, therefore they could not deny the Gentiles a share in all the other blessings included in the same gift."

### **Day Five**

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.

v. 15 – All men, both Jew and Gentile, die because of Adam's sin. That was and is an indisputable fact. But now Paul argued that the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ is available to all men and is also an indisputable fact; indeed the effects of the grace gift are greater than the effects of the trespass. The sentence of Adam's death is inescapable, but the gift of life in Christ is available to any who choose it. And that gift has benefits for this life and the life to come!

v. 16 – Keep in mind that Paul has been making an ongoing case that the gift of salvation was available not just to Jews, but also to Gentiles. It is still a surprise to me that this was an issue in the Roman church, for Rome was a cross-cultural city. But the Judaizers—those who followed Paul to say that Gentiles had to follow the Law of Moses—must have been an influential force, and thus Paul spent much of Romans and almost all of Galatians refuting their teachings.

While these heresies were dangerous and did much damage, they also helped focus the early church attention on defining and clarifying doctrine. We Gentiles are in the Church today because of the teaching and writing that Paul did that defended our right to have access to God. Thank God for Paul!

vs. 17&18 – If you detach these verses from the opposition to Gentiles coming to the faith, you may wonder what all the fuss is about. But Paul was arguing that if the sin of one man led to death for all men, then the righteousness of Jesus led to eternal life for *all* men. As John wrote:

“The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world” (John 1:9).

Once again, I thank God for Paul’s strength and conviction. He would not settle for anything less than a worldwide church. It is ironic that a Jew and not a Gentile was making this argument, but a Gentile would not have had the grasp of the Old Testament to make this kind of case.

God had prepared Paul to make this case. It is awesome to me how God prepares us for what is ahead when we don’t realize what He is doing. You may be going through something right now that you just don’t understand. But have faith; trust God! He is putting something in you that you will need later, something that will benefit many others.

Any time I go through a difficult situation, I ask myself, “Who needs what I am learning now? Who can I give this away to? How can I use this for God?” There have been no wasted lessons in my life. God is very efficient and has prepared me well for His purposes. I know He has done the same for you.

### **Day Six**

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.

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

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.

v. 19 – This principle can be applied to your own life, for you can make a difference. Someone once said that you and God always represent a majority, no matter what situation you may find yourself in. We study great leaders who made a difference—they changed minds and instituted new ideas that revolutionized nations and history. Even Paul made a difference through his refusal to bow to Jewish pressure that Gentiles follow the Law.

Where are you standing now? What does God have you doing? Are you alone? You are not alone. God is with you. I urge you to be courageous and stand. Trust God that He will help you make the impact He wants you to have.

v. 20 – As we mentioned earlier, the Law was given to establish what sin was. If I am walking on someone's grass, I don't know it is off limits until someone puts up a sign. Until that sign goes up, I have no idea that I am doing something wrong. The Law served the same purpose. Once the sign goes up, I am now tempted to ignore the sign and walk on the grass anyway. That sign did not cause my sin, but it gave an opportunity for what was already in me to manifest itself.

v. 21 – Someone once said that you haven't preached grace enough until someone accuses you of preaching it too much. Whenever grace is preached, there is concern that we are being soft on sin and releasing the sinner from the consequences of his or her actions. The greatest example of grace in Jesus ministry is the following story:

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:1-11).

Jesus did not ignore her sin or the accusations of those who brought her to Him. But what a magnificent application of grace and truth! Lord, I want to be like you. I want to apply grace to daily life in such a way that sinners can repent but know how great and merciful You are! Help me, Lord, to be your instrument of grace and peace. Amen.

### **Day Seven**

6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?  
2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?  
3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?  
4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

v. 1 – There it is—the common complaint as soon as grace is mentioned. Paul stated that grace appeared when Law defined sin. So someone said, "Well then, I guess we should just sin more and more, since grace appears when we sin. If we want more grace, then

the source of that increased grace would be increased sin.” How ridiculous! Yet try preaching grace and you will hear the same criticism eventually. Ask me how I know!

v. 2 – Paul shut down this silly reason quickly. But now someone else will put forward the doctrine that the believer’s life can and should be sinless. This is also silly. They will reason, “Do you think you can remain sinless for one day?” When the person answers “yes,” they will then retort, “Well, why can’t you live a sinless life every day, one day at a time?”

I get letters and emails from people challenging me on this issue and on the faith issue, stating that every problem and failure is due to lack of faith.

My position on this is simple: We will not reach perfection until *after* the Lord’s return. Until then, we have been infected by sin, willingly chosen to live out the results, saved by grace and being conformed to the image of Jesus day by day. We have died to sin, but there are pockets of resistance that are holding out, fighting a losing battle even though the war has been won by Jesus.

Vs. 3&4 – I trust that you have been water baptized, not as an infant, but as a believing adult. Baptism cannot be something someone chooses for you; you must choose it for yourself. When you do, you are choosing to identify with the Lord’s death, recognizing that you cannot be fixed—you are in need of a total overhaul! That so-called overhaul comes through death, burial and resurrection. Your repentance starts this process, baptism furthers it and receiving the Holy Spirit confirms and finishes it. When you receive the Holy Spirit, you have a power by which you can live a new life.

If you have not been baptized but trust in the Lord for salvation, I would urge you to proceed to a local church to be baptized. If you have already been baptized, I would not recommend that you be re-baptized, even if you have fallen away from the Lord and have come back to Him. I had a pastor once who would baptize people as often as they wanted, but I never agreed with that position.

I want you to picture yourself being baptized, but as you go under the water, I want you to see yourself coming up as a new person. Visualize the reality that you have died and are now raised to a new life. Even if you can’t feel it, it’s true! And I pray that today and every day you will walk in this newness of life to serve Him and become a carrier of His message and grace.