

Romans part 4

Fun fact about Romans –

Consider the testimony of these men regarding Romans:

- a. Martin Luther praised Romans: “It is the chief part of the New Testament and the perfect gospel... the absolute epitome of the gospel.”
- b. Luther’s successor Philip Melancthon called Romans, “The compendium of Christian doctrine.”
- c. John Calvin said of the Book of Romans, “When anyone understands this Epistle, he has a passage opened to him to the understanding of the whole Scripture.”
- d. Samuel Coleridge, English poet and literary critic said Paul’s letter to the Romans is “The most profound work in existence.”

We should also remember the Apostle Peter’s words about Paul’s letters: **2 Peter 3:15b-16** *as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, ¹⁶ as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*

- The Book of Romans has life changing truth but it must be approached with effort and determination to understand what the Holy Spirit said through the Apostle Paul.

Recap – Everyone needs salvation. We can’t save ourselves. God provides a way through Jesus. Our righteousness come from faith in Jesus and His work, not through our work.

Romans 4:23-25 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

- God did not reveal to Abraham that he was righteous by faith for the sake of Abraham – That was written for us.

- God did all that through Abraham because He wanted us to believe it about ourselves.

Chapter 5

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- So it is settled. We are justified by faith. We are made righteous by faith.
- This gives us peace with God. His wrath is no longer against us – because His wrath is against unrighteousness and we are made righteous.
- Believe that. If you are a believer, God is not angry with you. God is not vengeful towards you. God is on your side. You and God are at peace with each other.
- That is accomplished through the work of Jesus Christ.
- It is Christ's work on the cross that give us access, by faith, into this saving grace.
- That is why it is faith in the life of Jesus (as God and man); the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus that is essential for salvation. This is saving faith.
- This should bring about rejoicing. This is the Good News!!!
- Why does Paul use hope here?
- Definitions of faith and hope.
 - Faith – belief in what God has done in the past.
 - Hope – belief in what God will do in the future.
 - Faith is rooted in the past; hope is rooted in the future. Same concepts.
- So we have hope that the glory of God – His righteousness on us – is perfected forever.
 - **Hebrews 10:14** For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Great! I'm saved. I am at peace with God and am truly righteous. Life is going to be perfect now.

Romans 5:3-5 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- Wait. I get rejoicing in the hope and glory of God. But tribulations?
- Yes! That's one of the awesome parts of our salvation. It is not just rejoicing in times of prosperity and health, but the Gospel is also suited to bring rejoicing in times of hardship.
- First of all, God promises to be with us in difficult times:
 - **Nahum 1:7** The LORD *is* good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.
- But also, the things we go through help transform us into the image of God.
 - The hardships we go through produce perseverance. Endurance. Remember faith always produces. When we have faith in Jesus during tribulations, it produces endurance.
 - Tribulations do not produce endurance. Faith in God during tribulations (stresses) produces endurance.
 - How we go through the hardships will determine how we come out of them.
- Tribulations produce perseverance, perseverance character (trustworthiness, of good character) and then hope (confidence).

Let's talk a little about mental health.

- People are getting worse, even though counseling is at an all time high.
- We put labels on everything. Instead of dealing with things that are difficult, we label them as trauma or toxic.

- There are real traumas. But not everything is. People say I can't deal with this, it's bad for my mental health. Or I need a safe space. What they really mean is this is hard and I don't want to deal with it.
- Mental health should not be about avoiding life. It is learning how to handle life.
- Mental health cannot be dependent on having the right circumstances.
- Feeling better cannot be the goal instead of getting better.
- Symptom management does not bring healing. Struggling does not mean failing. It is building capacity to endure. Coping mechanisms are dangerous.
- We are supposed to navigate difficult people, hard conversations, life challenges – not avoid them. If we never go through these hardships, we will always need coping mechanisms, boundaries, to feel safe.
- We need to learn good communication skills, regulating emotions, handling stress. Healing isn't about escaping stress.
- Labels are not our identity. You are not a diagnosis – You are not anxious, adhd, traumatized. You are a child of God.
- Not every difficult circumstance is a trauma, not every workplace is toxic not every difficult person is a narcissist. Just because you don't like something, or life is hard does not make it toxic or even bad. Don't pathologize normal struggles.

We are designed to go through difficult times to transform us into the image of God. Hardships produce endurance. Endurance produces character. Character produces hope. And hope never disappoints.

- As a society we have forgotten this. Why have we forgotten this?
 - Because we have forgotten God. We have neglected His Word.
- But we were not created to deal with hardships by ourselves.
- We are meant to depend on Christ. To live by the Holy Spirit in us. And to lean on the church around us. You are not alone in this life unless you choose to be.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- The love of God in us builds capacity to deal with whatever life throws at us.
- When we fully accept the love of God – really accept it – it will not stop hardships, but it will make them easy to get through.
- Paul said this about being shipwrecked, stoned, left for dead, beaten, imprisoned, starved, and mocked:
 - **2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory.

Romans 5:6-11 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- Wow. There is a lot going on in this passage. And some very important points.
- God shows that He loves us. When we were full of the object of His wrath. While we were sinners – Christ died for us.
- God loves us so much He provides the way to righteousness.
- We do not need to become righteous to come to God. He initiated the relationship. He showed us love first. He was not waiting for us to choose Him. He chose us.
- Note – While we **were** sinners. We are not sinners after receiving His grace.

- But all of this is not even the point of why Paul wrote this passage. It ties into what was before this. The tribulations and hardships we go through.
- God loves us so much that He died for us while we were still sinners. So now that we are justified by His blood through His death, we are saved from His wrath.
- If we are no longer enemies of God. If we are now at peace with God, and He loved us when we were against Him – How much greater must His love be towards us now! If we were saved from His wrath while enemies, how much more does His life in us save us!!!
- He sees us through all of life’s hardships. We are saved by His life in us.
- So rejoice that you are reconciled to God through Jesus, because you do not have to go through tribulations without the power of the life of God inside of you.

Adam and Christ

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

- This is known as original sin.
- When Adam sinned, all that were in him sinned.
- This is like spiritual genetics. The sin nature is passed down from father to child. (We know it is through the males, because Jesus was born of a woman with God as the Father – thus He did not inherit the sin nature, but was perfect). (Also, note it is because of Adam’s sin, not Eve’s).
- We are born into sin. We are born with things that need to be changed in us. No one wants their child to stay in the same place as when they are a child. We learn not to lie, hit, steal...
- That’s why “I was born this way” means absolutely nothing. We are all born needing to change.
- That’s why the Gospel is transformative, and why it is saving.

- Since we are now under the power of sin, death is spread to all, because all sinned.
- How many sins does it take to become a sinner? Zero.
- **Hebrews 7:9-10** Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.
 - I.e. – Back to the Future
- We understand on a physical level that what our parents do before we are born can affect us after we are born – the way they eat, treat their bodies, drugs...
- The same is true for Adam when he sinned. He introduced sin into the bloodline.
- If God is against unrighteousness, why not just make us born righteous? He did! It just got messed up by original sin.

Romans 5:13-14 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless 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.

- We can see that the law of Moses did not introduce this condition of unrighteousness to people, because people died prior to the law.
- Death is the consequence of sin. So the fact that people died proves that sin existed prior to the law.
- And the law was not sufficient to stop death.
- People were not under the Mosaic law, but they were still under the law of sin and death.

Biblical Definitions of dead and alive.

Dead = Separated | Alive = Connected.

- Die physically, separated from the physical.
- There is no ceasing to exist. Everything God makes is everlasting.

- Did Adam and Eve die when they ate? Yes. They were separated from God. Now God had to go look for them.
- When we die, we are separated from our physical bodies. If we are connected to God, Alive in Christ, we spend eternity with Him. If we are dead to God, separated from Him, we spend eternity in a state of death – disconnected from God. That would be the lake of fire.

Romans 5:15-16 But 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. ¹⁶ And 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.

- Paul is contrasting the work of Adam and Jesus.
- Adam gave an offense, and it resulted in consequences for the entire human race – death. Separation from God.
- Jesus gave grace – which also had consequences for the entire human race – His gift results in justification (righteousness).
- Adam brings judgement.
- Jesus brings righteousness

Why does Adam's action automatically put us all under sin, But Jesus' action does not automatically make us righteous? (We have to put faith in Jesus).

- We are born into Adam. So we are of the line of Adam and all that goes with it.
- When we put faith in Jesus – we are transferred into the line of Christ, and all that goes with it.
- We are born into Adam. We must be born again (Reborn!) into the line of Christ. This is why we are called Sons and Daughters of God after being saved.

Romans 5:17-19 For 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.) ¹⁸ Therefore, 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. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

- Again, being in the line of Adam brings judgement, condemnation, and death. Being in the line of Christ brings righteousness and life.
- So was it horrible that Adam sinned?
- Yes and no. Obviously introducing death and sin was horrific. But if he had not, and sin was not an entity that was passed down from generation to generation, the Jesus would have had to die for each line where sin was introduced. Or perhaps even die for each and every individual person.
- But as it is, we are born into sin but we have the choice to choose Jesus, and we are made perfect – forever.
- If this was not the case and we were born perfect – then if we sinned once, we would forever be lost in our sin, and be separated from God for eternity. This is how it is with angels.