

Romans 5

1 The summation of his argument to this point, we have been justified by faith! Since that is true, we are no longer rebels in a war we could never win. Let us have peace with God through our Master, Jesus, the Messiah. Acts 13:38-39

2 Jesus made a way, opened a door, from impending justice into the grace of God where we are now standing. By the death of Jesus in our place, we have gone out from under justice that would mean damnation. Justice now puts us in His grace. Instead of doom and gloom, waiting for the sentence we deserve, with joyful thankful hearts we look forward to the glory of God that will be shared with us. Ephesians 2:18, 3:12; Job 19:25-27; 2 Corinthians 3:18

3 Not likely to ever be voted the most popular verse in the Bible but one many mature Christians put to memory because it is a part of our lives. 1Peter 1:6,7 Suffering is somehow connected to sharing glory. Romans 8:17-18 As we suffer our perseverance (patient endurance) muscles are strengthened. When something tough suddenly shows up in our life, the suffering has prepared us to deal with it in steadfastness.

4 Suffering builds up our muscles of perseverance, and in turn that develops our character. A better character causes us to represent Christ more faithfully in this life, laying up a better reward- our hope. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

5 That will never be a disappointing process, because the object of our hope, the love of God, is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. That love is sufficient to see us through our sufferings in this life. Not a 'someday' thing but a daily strengthening from God. If suffering strengthens my love relationship with Christ, then I will suffer. One man of God said, "Suffering makes more room in my heart for Jesus." If that is the case, I can see rejoicing in suffering. Philippians 1:20

6 A *kairos* moment! In Greek there are two words for time. *Chronos* is the time of day, *kairos* is the opportune moment when conditions come together to make something possible. God chose this epoch moment when roads made travel possible through the known world, when one language (Greek) was spoken for commerce throughout this area. He chose a time when there was a famine for the word of the Lord. It was a time when there was some freedom and yet the Jewish nation was subservient and seeking a deliverer. This *kairos* moment drew a few faithful souls to pray for The Deliverer of Israel. They recognized how powerless they were and that the only hope was a Savior. He did not die for us because the Holy Spirit was drawing us to Him, He died so the Holy Spirit could draw us to Him. In paying the price for our sins He made it possible for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all flesh as Joel (2:28-29) had prophesied. Galatians 4:4

7 When we hear of someone giving their life for another it is big news because it is so rare. But in no case have I ever heard of someone laying down their life so their enemy might live. We were enemies of our Creator, living in obstinate rebellion when He died for us. Galatians 2:1-5

8 Step two on the Roman road. But God did it! In Christ God gave himself to us while we were in the midst of rebellion. The disciples deserted him. Everyone had the same mind set as in the days of King Saul. "Give us a man to rule over us!" Mankind (and you and I are included) was in the midst of thumbing their nose at God when Christ went to the cross. They wanted an earthly deliverer not a spiritual Savior. That is the nature you and I inherited. How much love is that, to die for man while he was in that state? It is more than I can comprehend. 1John 3:16, 4:9-10

9 NIV has an exclamation point here and the statement deserves one. If the blood of God incarnate was shed to make me right with God, I am certainly out from under the sentence of wrath I once deserved. Could there be anything more sufficient? Grab hold of the reality that Jesus paid it all! Hebrews 9:14

10 Jesus ever lives to intercede for us. If his death made us right with God while we were enemies, what can his resurrected life do for our life? Do you have a vision for what the life of Christ can do for you now that you are his friend? Young Moody heard a preacher say, "The world has yet to see what God can do with a many who is fully yielded to Him." He became the greatest soul winner of the 19th century! How? The life of Jesus in him is how. He was told after his first sermon that he should try another area of service, but he believed this verse! Here is the combination of 4:25 and 5:9 - both the blood and the resurrection justify us. John 14:19; 2 Corinthians 4:10-11

11 We are reconciled to God, and we can be joyful in God every day for that wonderful reality. "I call you no longer servants but friends." We don't need to worry about slipping up, not being perfect, not pleasing God, for Jesus did that for us, in our place. His righteousness has been credited to our account. So should we be casual about sin? Absolutely not! All the more reason to abhor it and turn from it. 2 Corinthians 5:18

Questions for Romans 5

What does it mean to have 'peace with God'?

How does that affect you on a daily basis?

What does it mean 'rejoice in the glory of God'?

How can we rejoice in suffering?

How did God demonstrate His love for you?

What is the connection between justification and saved from wrath?

What is the difference between His blood reconciling us and His life saving us?

List the three reasons to rejoice: