



the gospel

ROMANS

PERSONAL STUDY GUIDE
CHAPTERS 5-8
(NOV. 2017—JAN. 2018)

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The Blessings of Justification

Romans 5:1-11

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Nov. 5.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, October 30

1. **Read Romans 5:1-11.** This passage reveals 7 blessings of our justification through Christ. The first is **peace with God** (5:1). **Journal** or **pray** about what such peace means to you.
2. The Hebrew word for “peace” is *shalom*, a theologically rich word. **Look in an exhaustive concordance** (<http://biblehub.com/hebrew/7965.htm>) or other word study resource to see the various ways this word is translated. If this benefit is so important, what does it contribute to how we think about the gospel message?

Tuesday, October 31

1. **Journal** or **pray** about the **access to God** (5:2a) we have received through Jesus Christ.
2. **Read Hebrews 10:19-22.** What does this passage add to your understanding about the access to God provided through Jesus?

Wednesday, November 1

1. **Journal** or **pray** about the **glorious hope** (5:2b) we have through Jesus.
2. **Read the following passages.** What do they contribute to your understanding of the glorious hope that awaits believers?
 - Matthew 16:27
 - Romans 8:16-19, 23
 - Colossians 3:4
 - 1 John 3:2

Thursday, November 2

1. “Our English word *tribulation* comes from the Latin word *tribulum*..., a heavy piece of timber with spikes in it, used for threshing the grain. The tribulum was drawn over the grain and it separated the wheat from the chaff. As we go through tribulations, and depend on God’s grace, the trials only purify us and help us to get rid of the chaff.” (Wiersbe, *Be Right*, 61)

Journal or pray about the blessing of **Christian character** (5:3-4) that we receive through Christ.

2. **Read 1 Peter 3:14-17 and 4:12-16.** What kind of suffering do the Scriptures commend?

“The confidence we have for the day of judgment is not based only on our intellectual recognition of the fact of God's love, or even only on the demonstration of God's love on the cross (although that is important; cf. vv. 6-8), but also on the inner, subjective certainty that God does love us.” - Douglas Moo

Friday, November 3

1. **Journal or pray** about **God’s love within us** (5:5-8). How did it get there? What is the relationship between God’s love and the reliability of hope?
2. What is the significance of 5:7 to the concept of God’s love for us? What is the difference between a “righteous” person and a “good” person? Why would someone treat them differently? (If you’re stuck, think about the last statement in Romans 3:22.)

*“Peace and joy are twin blessings of the gospel:
as an old preacher put it, ‘peace is joy resting; joy is peace dancing.’”
F.F. Bruce*

Saturday, November 4

1. **Journal or pray** about **salvation from future wrath** (5:9-10) and/or **reconciliation with God** (5:11).
2. **Look back at Romans 1:18-32.** What is different about how man has treated God and how God has treated man?
Read Ephesians 2:11-18. What does this passage add to your understanding of reconciliation through Christ?

The Basis of Justification

Romans 5:12-21

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Nov. 12.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, November 6

1. “To understand (5:12-21) a few general truths about this section need to be understood. First, note the repetition of the little word *one*. It is used eleven times. The key idea here is our identification with Adam and with Christ. Second, note the repetition of the word *reign*, which is used five times. Paul saw two men—Adam and Christ—each of them reigning over a kingdom. Finally, note that the phrase *much more* is repeated five times. This means that in Jesus Christ we have gained much more than we ever lost in Adam!”

Read Romans 5:12-21. Journal or pray about the curse we all have in our sin nature and the abundant grace of God that frees us from it.

2. What is the "offense of Adam" referred to in verse 14 through which "sin entered into the world" (5:12)? (see Genesis 3:1-19)

Tuesday, November 7

1. **Read 5:16. Journal or pray** about the effect of Adam's sin versus the effect of Christ's obedience.
2. How is it that Jesus is able to deal with "many transgressions" though only "one transgression" caused our condemnation?

Wednesday, November 8

1. **Read 5:17. Journal or pray** about the two "reigns" described in this verse.
2. How do "the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness" enable believers to "reign in life" (5:17)?

Thursday, November 9

1. **Read 5:18-19. Journal or pray** about the differences between the "acts" Paul describes.
2. What is the "one act of righteousness" referred to in verse 18? (see Romans 4:25 and Philippians 2:8)

Friday, November 10

1. **Read 5:20-21. Journal or pray** about the differences between the Law and grace. How do you see these concepts at work in your own life?
2. What is your understanding of why “the many” or “all” are affected by Adam’s sin? Why are the “many” able to receive the grace of Christ?

Saturday, November 11

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the questions, “How do you react to Adam’s sin being credited to you? How about Christ’s righteousness being credited to you?”
2. Why do you think Paul spends so much time contrasting Adam and Christ?

The Fact of Freedom

Romans 6:1-11

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Nov. 19.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, November 13

1. **Read Romans 6:1-11. Journal or pray** a response to the question, “Do you think most Christians take sin seriously? Do you?”
2. **Answer** the following question. What does this passage tell us about our union, or identification, with Christ? Note the verse references along with your observations. (To get started, circle every occurrence in the passage of the word "with".)

Tuesday, November 14

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the question, “How have you experienced the slavery of sin?”
2. What control did sin have over man before the law? What control over man did it have after the law? What control does it have over those that died with Christ? What does this tell you about the role of the law?

Wednesday, November 15

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the question, “What is our relationship to sin after salvation (6-7, 11)? What aspect of our union with Christ brought about this change? How?”
2. What bearing does our union with Christ have on the question Paul is addressing in verse 1?

Thursday, November 16

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the question, “How might you ‘increase grace’ in your life without sinning?”
2. The line of reasoning in 6:1 may seem far-fetched to us, but it was a serious issue for the communities of the first Christians. What differences between their environment and ours, 2000 years later, might cause Paul’s question in 6:1 to pack less punch for those of us who follow Jesus today? Why might this question gain more relevance in our post-Christian culture?

Friday, November 17

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “What does Christ’s resurrection tell us about our future? Why?” (6:8-10)
2. Paul uses the word “free” and lots of freedom imagery throughout this passage. John Calvin used this passage to help describe his notion of “free will.” What is your definition of free will and does this section challenge it in any way?

Saturday, November 18

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “What have you found helpful in resisting sin? What mistakes do we make in attempting to resist sin?”
2. Paul says that we were “crucified” so that the body of sin might be “done away with.” So why do you still commit sins? In what sense is the body of sin “done away with” in your personal experience?

The Choice of Freedom

Romans 6:12-23

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Nov. 26.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, November 20

1. **Read Romans 6:12-23. Journal or pray** a response to the passage. You might consider identifying specific parts of your body that you have “presented as instruments of sin” (6:13) and rededicating them to God for His glory.
2. What two kinds of slavery does Paul describe? (Note the various terms he used for each kind.) What freedom do these two kinds of slavery offer? What is the result of each kind of slavery?

Tuesday, November 21

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the question, “In what sense is our slavery a matter of choice?”
2. The master/slave relationship is used frequently in the New Testament to describe the relationship between God and His people. What insights do you gain from Luke 12:35-40 and 16:13?

Wednesday, November 22

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the statement, “Being a ‘slave’ is not a negative thing when your ‘master’ has your best interests in mind.”
2. Continuing to think about the master/slave imagery of the NT, what insights do you gain from Luke 17:7-10 and 1 Corinthians 9:16-17?

Thursday, November 23

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the questions, “What examples can you think of in which exercising the ‘freedom’ to sin actually results in slavery? When does ‘slavery’ to Christ result in freedom?”
2. **Read Luke 19:11-26 and John 15:18-20.** What do these references to slaves and masters speak to you?

Friday, November 24

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the statement, “True freedom is not found in answering to No One; it’s found in answering to The One.”
2. **Read Romans 14:1-4 and Ephesians 6:5-6.** What do these references to slaves and masters add to your understanding?

Saturday, November 25

1. **Journal** or **pray** about how you have grown and progressed as a follower of Jesus.
2. What does 6:23 mean? Is it referring to the ultimate future reality or is it the immediate experience of the believer? Or is it somewhere in between?

The Authority & Ministry of the Law

Romans 7:1-13

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Dec. 3.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, November 27

1. **Read Romans 7:1-13** and then **journal** or **pray** a response to the passage. You might consider the question, "What words or images does the word "freedom" bring to mind? Is this what you associate with Christianity?"
2. In the last three lessons, Paul has used different pictures to explain what it means for a believer to be "under grace" rather than "under law". What point is he making with each of these pictures?

6:1-14; death

6:15-23; slavery

7:1-6; marriage

Tuesday, November 28

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, "What role does the law of God play in your life?"
2. What are at least four ways the law ministers to us today? (7:7-13)

Wednesday, November 29

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, "What is different in us as believers that wasn't there when we were under the law? What difference has this made in your life?"
2. Paul talks about 4 major powers in this section: us, the law, Christ and sin. Which of these died? What happened to the others and why?

Thursday, November 30

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “How are God’s commandments a source of life for the believer (v. 10)?”
2. How does Paul describe the effects of sin working through the law? (vv. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13)

Friday, December 1

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “What is an example of a time when sin deceived you (v. 11)?”
2. In Romans 7:8-10, what does Paul mean that he was “once alive” and then he “died”? How does this parallel with Adam and Eve in Romans 5:13-14?

Saturday, December 2

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “Why do you think Paul may have used the commandment ‘you shall not covet’ as an example of lawbreaking? What are some laws you struggle with personally?”
2. Look at Exodus 20, where Moses receives the 10 commandments. Why do you think that Paul did not use any of these other commandments as his example in Romans 7?

The Limits of the Law

Romans 7:14-25

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Dec. 10.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, December 4

1. **Read Romans 7:14-25** and then **journal** or **pray** a response to the passage. You might consider the question, “What was Paul’s experience when he tried to obey the Law’s commands?”
2. How does Paul describe his own condition in verses 14-25? How does this compare to his descriptions elsewhere of the believer’s condition in Christ?

Paul’s condition	The believer’s condition in Christ
7:14	6:14
7:18	6:18
7:19	7:6
7:23	8:2
7:25	8:9

Tuesday, December 5

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “In what ways do you relate to Paul’s struggle as described in Romans 7:14-24?”
2. Many people believe that their journey as a follower of Jesus is a journey of 2 animals waging war inside of them: “a good dog and a bad dog. Whichever you feed the most will be the strongest.” How does Chapter 7 say that this is very bad theology? What role does performance play in following Jesus?

Wednesday, December 6

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, "Was there ever a time in your life prior to trusting Christ when you tried to "turn over a new leaf," to change your life for the better? How did it turn out?"
2. Romans 7:14-17 and 7:18-20 state the same basic idea. How are verses 14 and 18a similar? What they both declare? How are verses 17 and 20 similar, and what do they tell you?

Thursday, December 7

1. **Read Galatians 5:17.** **Journal** or **pray** a response. Can you think of situations when you have seen this verse in action?
2. What evidence can you find in Romans 7:14-25 to support the idea that Paul is talking about himself *before* he was saved by Jesus Christ?

Friday, December 8

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, "What does it mean to you that believers have been freed from the authority of the Law?"
2. What evidence can you find in Romans 7:14-25 to support the idea that Paul is talking about himself *after* he was saved by Jesus Christ?

Saturday, December 9

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, "What do you understand that God is leading you to do in order to address the struggle portrayed in 7:14-25?"
2. What is the significance for our lives of Romans 7:14-25 if Paul is describing his experiences as a believer? What about if he is describing his experiences as an unbeliever?

In salvation, faith plus works is heresy.

Faith *without* works is also heresy.

No Condemnation & No Obligation

Romans 8:1-17

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Dec. 17.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, December 11

1. **Read Romans 8:1-17. Journal or pray** a response to the passage. You might consider the question, "What does 'no condemnation' mean to you?"
2. What does the word "therefore" indicate? What is the connection of these verses to the previous verses? What was the cause of Paul's despair at the end of chapter 7?

Tuesday, December 12

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the questions, "If there is no condemnation for believers (Romans 8:1), should we ever have feelings of guilt? Why/why not?"
2. Who are those who "are according to the flesh"?

What does it mean to set their mind on the things of the flesh? Give some examples.

Can you think of one word that means "set your mind on"?

What does it mean to set one's mind on the things of the Spirit? Give some examples.

Will the inner thoughts and meditations of a person come out in their actions? How? Give some verses that show us what a believer should be setting their mind on and meditating about.

Consider James 4:4, 1 John 2:15, Psalm 1, Colossians 3:2, Philippians 4:8

"So in practice, we should constantly be reminding ourselves of who we are. We need to learn to talk to ourselves, and ask ourselves questions: 'Don't you know? Don't you know the meaning of your conversion and baptism? Don't you know that you have been united to Christ in his death and resurrection? Don't you know that you have been enslaved to God and have committed yourself to his obedience? Don't you know these things? Don't you know who you are?' We must go on pressing ourselves with such questions, until we reply to ourselves: 'Yes, I do know who I am, a new person in Christ, and by the grace of God I shall live accordingly.'"

John Stott, *Romans: God's Good News for the World*, p 187

Wednesday, December 13

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “Based on 8:7-8, what is the risk of indulging fleshly desires? Is there anything in your life that you need the power of God’s Spirit to remove or cleanse?”
2. Compare the two kinds of life which Paul describes...

living according to the sinful nature

v. 5

v. 6

vv. 7-8

v. 13

living according to the Spirit

v. 5

v. 6

v. 13

v. 15

Thursday, December 14

1. In 8:14-17, Paul introduces the idea of the believer’s sonship. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “When you call God ‘Father,’ do you feel fear, duty, or privilege? Why?”
2. What is the difference in the cry of the person in chapter 7:24 and the cry of the person in 8:15?

Friday, December 15

1. Think about what it means that we are “co-heirs” with Jesus. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “What are all the ways you can think of that we are “co-heirs” and a child of God just like Jesus?”
2. Why is it important that the Holy Spirit indwells believers (Romans 8:9, 14, 16)?

Saturday, December 16

1. Paul tells us that we will share in the sufferings of Christ. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “In what ways did Jesus suffer that we will need to share?”
2. In 8:12-17 what do we learn about those that are led by the Spirit?

No Frustration

Romans 8:18-27

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Jan. 7.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, January 1

1. **Read Romans 8:18-27. Journal or pray** a response to the passage. You might consider the question, "How are you encouraged by the truth that God has adopted you as an adult child in His family?"
2. **Read** 1 Corinthians 15:49-54. Who are the "sons of God"? How will they be revealed?

Tuesday, January 2

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the questions, "Do you really consider your own sufferings to be "not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us"? How can you foster this attitude in yourself?"
2. In this life we will suffer (8:18). Why does Paul say that this suffering is not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us? What kind of "present sufferings" does Paul have in mind here? (Consider 8:35.) What "glory" is he talking about? (Consider 1 Corinthians 15:42-43; 1 John 3:2; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.)

Wednesday, January 3

1. When you look around at God's creation, what causes you to groan? How do you see its "slavery to corruption" (8:21)? For what do you long and wait eagerly?
2. How is the creation now subject to "frustration" and in bondage to "decay"? (vv. 20-21) Give examples. How did this happen? (see Genesis 1:26-28; 3:17-19)

Thursday, January 4

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “What does hope mean to you? On a day to day basis, what is your source of hope? What makes God-authored hope better than any other kind?” (8:24-25)
2. Paul pictures "the creation" looking forward with anticipation to the return of Christ and the revelation of the sons of God. What images does the Psalmist use to describe this time? (Psalm 96:11-13; 98:7-9) What effect will the revelation of the sons of God have on creation? (v. 21) What will this look like? (see Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:1-2, 6-7)

Friday, January 5

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “How have you seen the Spirit of God working in your moments of weakness (8:26-27)? What encouragement do you gain from these verses?”
2. Paul mentions three kinds of "groaning" in this passage. For each one, identify the cause of the groaning, the one doing the groaning, and the hoped-for outcome.

Cause	Who or What	Hope
v. 22		
v. 23		
v. 26		

Saturday, January 6

1. In 8:27, Paul explains how the Spirit of God intercedes on behalf of God’s children. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the question, “Do you believe that you can influence other people in a similar way by interceding for them according to the Spirit’s leading? Why or why not?”
2. **Read** Colossians 1:18 and Romans 8:23. Jesus is the first person to rise from the dead and to enter Heaven in a glorified human body that will never die. When He returns, what will happen to the remainder of the family of God?

No Separation

Romans 8:28-39

3 Approaches, 1 Goal: Knowing God better by meeting Him with His revealed word

1. **Reading Plan:** Read the passage some time before it is taught on Jan. 14.
2. **Devotional Plan:** Follow step 1 for each day of the week.
3. **Bible Study:** Follow all of the steps for each day.

Monday, January 8

1. **Read Romans 8:28-39. Journal or pray** a response to the passage. You might consider the question, "What difference does Jesus make in the life of a believer?"
2. What is the basis of our eternal security? In other words, how can we be confident that, once we have trusted in Christ, we shall certainly be saved?

Tuesday, January 9

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the questions, "How can other people's sin against us, persecution, losing our job, loss of investment, sickness, death of relatives, mosquitoes, withering heat, or overtime shifts, work out for our good? What is Satan's intention when these things happen in our lives?"
2. What qualities of God does 8:28 teach us? Can you think of any examples in the Bible of seemingly bad things working out for good? Any examples in your own life? What effect should the knowledge of the doctrine of God's sovereignty, His ultimate control over all things, have on our daily lives? How should it change our attitude and our outlook?

Wednesday, January 10

1. **Journal or pray** a response to the questions, "What are five things in 8:28-30 that Paul tells us we know? How does this knowledge impact you?"
2. What do you think Paul meant in 8:29 when he said that God "foreknew" those whom he called? (see Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:1-2)

Thursday, January 11

1. **Journal** or **pray** in response to the questions in 8:31-33. Your response might take the form of confession, if you have trouble believing in God’s steadfastness. On the other hand, your response can also take the form of praise because of these wonderful truths.
2. Verses 31-36 are composed of a series of rhetorical questions, in which Paul identifies and rejects possible obstacles to God accomplishing his purpose in us. In the space below, identify these questions, and the answer (or implied answer) for each.

	Question	Answer
v. 31		
v. 32		
v. 33		
v. 34		
v. 35		

Friday, January 12

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “Of the enemies listed in 8:38-39, which is the most real to you? How is it affecting you now?”
2. What does Paul’s quotation of Psalm 44:22 communicate in this context? Why would Paul include it?

Saturday, January 13

1. **Journal** or **pray** a response to the questions, “Paul says in 8:38 that he is convinced; are you? If you are convinced, too, what effect will this knowledge have on your life? If you could summarize the teachings of this passage in one word, what would it be?”
2. If you look at 8:31-34 as a courtroom scene, can you identify who is playing the following parts?

Defendant—the person on trial

Defense attorney—the person defending

Judge—the guy making the final decision

Prosecuting attorney—the only guy who has the authority to bring charges against the defendant

