

## BIBLE STUDY: ROMANS #5

Scripture of Lesson: Romans 5: 1~21

### 1. Our faith in Christ brings us into God's grace and hope: v. 1~5

In Chapter 4 Paul argued that Abraham, the father of all Jews and all those who walk in faith, was justified by his faith and not by his works, and this justification came before circumcision. Abraham believed God that He would lead him to a better land when God called him out of his father's household and his homeland. He saw afar off the heavenly city and followed God's instruction in faith. He believed that God would bless him as He had promised and in this faith he even offered the promised son, Isaac, on the altar on Mt. Moriah. Abraham saw and fully understood God's plan of human salvation. He saw in the ram caught in thicket on this hill the image of the Lamb of God who would be sacrificed for the sins of humanity to save us from our sins.

Now in Chapter 5 Paul says that our faith in Jesus Christ brings us into the same justification before God and into His marvelous grace because this Lamb of God died for us when we were sinners. And through this sacrifice God demonstrated clearly His love for us who are all sinners. [v. 8] Christ Himself spoke of this love to His disciples, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life* [John 3: 16]." Through this sacrifice we become reconciled with God and saved through His life [v. 10]. Through Christ Jesus our sins are forgiven and we have the great joy of salvation [v. 11]. When we were estranged from God because of sin, we were like enemies of God. Now, through our faith in Jesus Christ we become God's children. What a marvelous change, especially when it can be ours by God's grace alone without requiring any works on our part. God did all things and Christ did the most important part of laying down His own life for us. And this salvation has come to us free and that is the meaning of the amazing grace. Paul says when we stand in such grace of God through faith in Jesus, we have hope of God's glory—glory now in the present life and in the everlasting future [v. 4].

And because this hope is so real in us we are not ashamed of what we have received of God as we have the Spirit of God in us, who has filled our whole with the love of God. In fact, that is the most important work of Holy Spirit—it fills us with the love of God from God so much so that we become a new being, born again as God's children, and our lives are changed forever.

*Discussion topic: Does God extend His grace to those without faith in Christ? Do God's children have monopoly of God's grace and hope for eternity?*

### 2. Christ died to save sinners from God's wrath: v. 6~11

In the later part of Chapter 1 Paul spoke of God's wrath towards the evil. God hates sins and has reserved utter consequence of eternal destruction to the leaders and followers of Satan and the sins that put humanity away from God as His enemies. Something happened in the blood and DNA of all humans through the fall of Adam and Eve so that death came to rule over all humanity. This has been true even with those whose lives are clean and who do not sin like Adam [v. 14]. Our eventual death is the direct consequence of Adam's sin. In order to save such fallen humanity God instituted a sacrificial death of His own Son because no animal deaths, no matter how often they are offered, cannot fully take away our sins from us. To the just God the blood of His own Son was the only sacrifice that is powerful enough, worthy enough and holy enough to bring about His

plan of human salvation. So God planned His own sacrifice so that the fallen humanity may come into His proffered covenant and be saved, brought back to Heavenly Kingdom, the Eden where Adam dwelt. That was the only way how we can avoid God's wrath to come.

Apostle John expressed this fact in his letter, "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." [1 John 4:10]

Paul wrote to his fellow laborer Titus, "*Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.*" [Titus 2: 14]

*Discussion topic: Did Jesus die for only God's children? Does His blood cover the sins of those who never repent?*

### **3. Compare God's gift through Christ to condemnation through Adam's fall: v. 12~21**

Paul then compares Christ against Adam, our first father. Through Adam God created the humanity. However, through Adam sin came into all of us, thus death came to rule over us [v. 12]. The deprivation of our human nature has continued since the fall. Paul wrote in the first chapter on this,

*Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man. [Rom 1: 21~23]*

Sin's consequences, physical and spiritual death as well as deprivation of heart and nature, have been active on all humans and the creation as well since the time of Adam's fall, even to those whose lives are moral and without sinning like Adam [v. 14]. So no one may protest, why am I subject to the same consequence when I have not sinned?

As the awful consequences of sin came to each and every human being through the sinning of one man Adam, so does the wonderful gift of salvation comes to each and every human being through our faith in Jesus Christ through His sacrifice in God's redemption plan. [v. 18] Law makes people define criminals and brings shame and guilt to its breakers. But the grace of God brings sinners out of sin's darkness and Satan's grip into the marvelous light of Christ and the true hope of eternal salvation as God's children, justified through the blood of Jesus and sanctified through the helping work of the Holy Spirit [v. 20-21].

If you are troubled about your inability to come to grips with your sins, if you are tormented by the darkness and hopelessness in yourself, your family or your community, Jesus Christ is the answer. We all must ask the life's most important question, "What must I do to be saved?" [Acts 16: 30] This question was asked by the prison guard who was guarding Paul and Silas at Philippi. Paul's answer to him was, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, and your household.*" [Acts 16:31] This statement was fulfilled so that the prison guard and his whole family accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and were baptized. The gospel of Christ will do the same work today as it did some 2,000 years ago in the first century. *Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.* [Hebrews 13: 8]

*Discussion topic: Let us share our faith in Christ Jesus and how we have been brought into God's grace and love through believing in Jesus.*