

## **LESSON 10: ROMANS 5:1-21**

### **Reasons to Rejoice: the “How Much More” Chapter!**

1. What three privileges belong to those who are justified (vv. 1-2)? What is your understanding of the biblical concept of peace (*shalom*)? Does peace with God differ from peace of mind? If so, why? What does it mean to “stand” in grace? What does it mean to “rejoice in the hope of the glory of God”?
2. In what way can we possibly understand the notion of rejoicing in our sufferings (v. 3)? How does suffering for Christ’s sake produce the character changes mentioned in verses 3-5? Examine that sequence – suffering gives rise to endurance, and endurance to character, and character to hope. Does this make sense in your real life? What prevents you from letting hope fill you with joy in the midst of difficult circumstances?
3. How can it be said that hope does not “put us to shame”? What is the connection that Paul seems to be making between hope and not being shamed, on the one hand, and God’s love in our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit, on the other?
4. Paul claims that love firmly proves the security of our hope. How has God demonstrated his love for us (vv. 6-9)? What is so significant about the fact that Christ died for the ungodly? How does it impact our thinking about our own lives?
5. What does Paul mean in verse 9? Why, “since we have now been justified by his blood,” does Paul ask rhetorically “how much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God”? And what does it mean in verse 10 when Paul writes that we “shall be saved by his life”?

## Adam and Christ

1. What two things did Adam introduce into the world and pass on to his descendants (vv. 12ff.)? Was this fair?
  
2. How is it possible for people to sin without knowing God's law (v. 13; see also Romans 1:18-32)? In what way was Adam "a type of the one to come"?
  
3. What is the "free gift" of God (vv. 15-17)? How is the "trespass of Adam" contrasted to the "free gift" of God?
  
4. How can eternal life be obtained? In what way is this free?
  
5. What are the results of the "trespass of Adam" and the "obedience of Christ" (vv. 18-21)? How is it that by one's man's disobedience the many were made sinners. Is this fair? How is understanding our connection to Adam crucial to understanding our connection to Christ?
  
6. Compare 5:20 with 5:13? What was the impact of the Law? What does it mean that the law came to increase the trespass?
  
7. Note the word "reign" in verses 17 and 21. What is it that reigns in the lives of people who choose solidarity with Adam and those who choose Jesus Christ? In what ways is grace more than a match for sin?

Righteousness of God is the wrath being revealed always, and to come.

World at large: given over.

Jews: not righteous because they know the law, but only if they do the law.

No special privilege here: the one who does the law is righteous, Jew or no Jew.

But as it happens: there is none righteous, no, not one.

Thus, no one is saved by law, but condemned by it.

What advantage then has the Jew?

To them the oracles (the Law, his Word)

Law doesn't save: the greatness of the law is that it reveals our sin.

It reveals our need of Christ!

Otherwise, no difference:

All have sinned; world under judgment.

Central, crucial bad news of gospel: universal condemnation.

But now the righteousness from God is being revealed!

Justification as a gift by grace through redemption which is in Christ Jesus.

He is both just and the justifier of the one whose faith is in Jesus!

This is the law of faith (as opposed to the law of works), and it allows for no boasting.

In view here is a radical vision: a world under judgment, and the pardon only through faith in Christ.

Radical Christ reliance is called for; total complete trust for one's status before God.

How then was this shown in the OT? Now we see! And we'll also see how the Jews and Gentiles are connected in and through him....