

Paul's Letter to the ROMANS

UNIT FOUR The Fruit of Justification

- Romans 5-8 continues the theme of God's righteousness and faithfulness to his promises.
- Paul explained in 3:21-4:25 what it means to be 'righteous by faith'.
- Now he explains what it means to 'live' on that basis.

Peace with God (5:1-11)

- 'Peace' here means more than a sense of well-being about one's relationship with God.
- Only those who are justified by faith have 'peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (5:1).
- Peace and justification belong together – when God justifies sinners they are reconciled to him personally.

- **A New Joy (5:1-5)**
 - Verse 2 suggests that Christians have been ushered into the presence of the Great King by his Son and remain in his favour for ever.
 - As a result of sin, everyone lacks the illumination of God's glory for which they were created.
 - Those reconciled to God through Christ have the promise of being 'glorified' with him at the resurrection on the last day.
 - Rejoicing in hope is understandable, but how can we rejoice 'in our sufferings' (v3)?
 - Patient endurance is needed to produce 'character', the quality that is possessed by faith when it has stood up to testing.
 - Strengthening and refining of faith through suffering is evidence of God at work in our lives and strengthens our hope that he will fulfil his purposes for us.
- **A New Certainty (5:6-11)**
 - We can only begin to appreciate God's great love when we recognise the truthfulness of Paul's description of mankind in these verses.
 - Christ died for us when we were weak, ungodly and sinners, rebelling against God and consequently his enemies.
 - Christ died for the undeserving, to bring an end to our rebellion – God acted to save his enemies.
 - Those justified by the blood of Christ now can be certain of deliverance from God's wrath on the day of judgement.
 - Those who are presently reconciled to God by the death of his son can be certain that they will be saved.
 - This salvation is not only from God's wrath but also the glorification to be experienced when our bodies are redeemed.

Salvation through faith in Christ (3:27-4:25)

- Paul moves on to examine the significance of Christ for the whole of humanity – by comparing with Adam.
- The effect of Adam's sin (5:12-14).
 - Sin came into the world through Adam's transgressions and death followed sin 'like a shadow'.
 - 'Death spread to all men because all men sinned'.
 - People have different views of how all of humanity sins.
 - Some take it to mean people sinning in their own right, independently from Adam but following his example.
 - Paul speaks of death immediately reigning over everyone – leading some to suggest that all sinned collectively when Adam sinned.
 - Judgement falls because of our own rebellion, so a better explanation might be that people sin in their own right as a result of the corrupt nature inherited from Adam.
 - Paul points out that sin was in the world and people continued to sin before the law was given through Moses.
 - Death reigned in the period between Adam and Moses because sin reigned.
 - In what sense is Adam a 'type' or 'pattern' of Christ?
 - Before developing a comparison, Paul seeks to emphasise the differences.
- The effect of Christ's obedience (5:15-21).
 - Paul does not want readers to make a simple comparison, as if 'the free gift' in Christ and 'the effect of one man's sin' were equal.
 - Judgement followed one act of disobedience, but the offer of justification follows 'many trespasses'.
 - The real point of Paul's comparison is that one man's action determined what would happen for many.
 - There is still an important contrast to be made.
 - Death reigned because of Adam's sin and continues to dominate human life.

- But those who receive 'the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness' will themselves reign over death 'in life'.
- Whereas Adam's trespass led to condemnation for all, Christ's 'act of righteousness' leads to 'acquittal and life for all men'.
- Christ's atoning death was this act of righteousness that reverses the effects of Adam's sin.
- A new status of righteousness leading to eternal life is available 'for all'.
- All were made sinners as a result of Adam's disobedience.
- By Christ's perfect fulfilment of God's requirements 'many will be made righteous'.
- Paul concludes by making brief reference again to the coming of the law of Moses.
- The law was given to expose sin – in doing so it provoked sin, but the disastrous nature of sin had to be shown.
- Conclusion
 - Paul pictures humanity under the rule of sin and death due to Adam's disobedience.
 - Christ began a new humanity because of his perfect obedience to the will of God.
 - All are in Adam by birth, but only those who have faith in Christ belong to the new humanity.