

Study 5

THE FREE GIFT

Romans 5

In The Group

- ◆ What spiritual gifts has God given you?
- ◆ How have you used your spiritual gifts in the last two weeks?
- ◆ How do you want others to pray for you?

God has atoned for our sins because of the work of Christ. In this chapter, the apostle is going to show us the benefits of this atonement and why some people may die not having their sins atoned for.

1. In Romans 5:1 Paul mentions two benefits to having our sins atoned for. The first is that we are justified (declared innocent) because of the perfect work of Christ. What is the second benefit he mentions and what difference should this make to how we live?

Coming to know Christ and having your sins forgiven does not always change your particular circumstances. Sometimes life deals us a bad hand (or sometimes we play a bad hand). Trusting God when things are not going well in life requires faith and causes “hope” to become even more precious to us (Romans 5:2). The Bible uses the word: *hope* to speak of a *positive expectation for the future*. God gives hope. Whatever you are facing right now in your life, if you know Christ, you are not without hope!

2. We often go through hard times and ask the “Why me?” question. While we can’t always answer that question specifically, we can discover some general principles that at least broadly answer the “Why?” question. Read Romans 5:3-4 and list some of the reasons that God allows trials/difficulties to happen in our lives.

It is often difficult to love God when we are in the midst of trial. After all, why doesn’t the All-Powerful and All-loving God help us! Yet Paul says that it is precisely love for God that increases when the believer is under trial.

3. In the context of enduring hardship, how does Romans 5:5 state that it is possible for the believer to *love* God? (Compare this to First John 4:19)

Sin is high treason against the King of the Universe. It’s penalty is ultimately eternal condemnation (being separated from God forever). Of course, this judgment upon a sinner does nothing than give them what they really want (separation from God) - *except it gives it to them for eternity!* Added to this is the insidious nature of sin that acts like an intoxicating drug upon its victim by fooling them into thinking that they are stronger *without* God.

4. What two descriptions does Romans 5:6 use of those in the death-grip of sin?

Even the noblest, finest, most charitable person in the world is a lost sinner. No-one’s good works can merit them any righteousness before God. We sometimes get fooled into thinking that a *good* person is closer to being a Christian than a *bad* person. The truth is, there are *good* sinners and there are *bad* sinners. When a person accepts Christ they receive a new identity - no longer a “sinner”, they are now - an “adopted child of God”.

5. It would be too easy to think that God only loves His children. How does Romans 5:7-8 correct this view and what evidence does it present?

It's one thing to be "saved" from eternal condemnation. If that's all that Christ did for us, we would be literally eternally grateful. But Christ's death has not only served as a substitute for our deserved eternal death, He has also 'justified' us (Rom. 5:9) which means that we are declared *innocent* by God. If all that Christ had done was to ensure that we didn't have to endure eternal condemnation, and that we were forgiven of our sins and declared *innocent*, that would surely be amazing. But He has also done more for us!

6. Note what else Romans 5:11 states that Christ has done for us. Since we needed this, what does this reveal about the spiritual condition of every person who has not been saved by Christ?

THE FIRST AND SECOND ADAMS

Paul compares the first Adam with the "Last" Adam (1Cor. 15:45). Both 'Adams' were what theologians call: *Federal Heads*. This means, they were the representative head of people who were related to them. All people are related to the First Adam.

7. As a result of being related to the First Adam, what spiritual condition are *all* people born into? (Romans 5:12)

Before the Law was given, *sin* was not precisely defined (Romans 5:13). This does not mean that people did not sin or that people did not *know* what sin was. And the apostle makes the point that despite not having or knowing the Law, the effect of sinning was experienced by all: *death*. The Bible uses the word "death" not to mean '*cease to exist*' but, "separate". When our spirit is separated from our body, we experience *physical* death (James 2:26).

8. Referring to Isaiah 59:2, how is *spiritual* death described and what is its cause?

GRACE ABOUNDING

Adam brought *death* to *all*, but Christ brought *life* to *many* (Romans 5:15).

9. Note Romans 5:15-16. In what ways is the trespass of Adam different to the gift of Jesus?

Some teach that when Jesus died, He saved *all* people (most of whom just don't know it). This is called *Universalism*.

10. Why does Romans 5:17 *not* support Universalism?

Even though Romans 5:18 states that “all” people have been justified, the first word of this verse (“Therefore”, “Consequently”, “So”) shows that it is connected to the previous verse which says that only those (“many” not “all”) who “receive” the grace of God will be saved. Therefore, all people who do this will be saved. In a similar way, when Romans 5:19 says that “many were made sinners” it is also clarified by the previous verses which state that *all* people were made sinners by virtue of the Head of the human race (Adam) plunging us all into sin (Rom. 5:12).

When God gave the Law through Moses it revealed to the world precisely what sin was. Rather than curbing sin, it actually resulted in more sin (Rom. 5:20). Knowing what the right thing to do is, doesn't guarantee that the right thing will be done. Yet knowing what the wrong thing to do is, usually leads to the wrong thing being done! (Rom. 5:20)

11. Sin brought death, but what did Jesus Christ bring according to Romans 5:21 and how is it incomparable to the result of sin?

12. What does Romans 5 teach us about the Gospel, particularly about grace?

13. In which part of this study did you sense God was speaking to *you*?

14. Write out your prayerful response to God -
