

Romans 5 "Step by Step"

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

Having laid the ground work and built upon the truth that *'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'* we see the beautiful truth of 'justification by faith' in Jesus Christ. Romans 5 picks up with what this truth has brought us;

V1- *We have peace with God.* Peace because He has justified us, that He has made us just as if we have never sinned. Consider 2 types of peace:

Peace with God- You are His; forgiven, justified, born of the Spirit: tranquility, serenity of soul, calmness concerning judgement. No longer fighting or resisting His forgiveness.

Peace of God- Hearing and obeying Him. Ignoring and disobeying bring unrest, anxiety and even varying degrees of turmoil. You are His but you are not at peace.

Example: Peace with God- I know I am a Davis! My parents taught me that, confirmed that to me and I have no doubt about that. My parents poured into me, made sacrifices for me and proved their devotion to me. I have no turmoil about that. As a Davis child I was at peace concerning who I was but there were times I did not have peace concerning what I had done.

The relational unrest we experience as His children is calmed and peace is restored when we humbly come before Him and live out 1John 1:9 which reads; *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* We have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ!

V2- *AND we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand.* Believing God is the pathway to grace. Hebrew 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need!* Grace is where we stand! Justified by faith we stand in grace! Let grace change you! Grace should be evident to those around you.

V2- *AND- Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.* Present tense, continuous, Rejoice! Jn 15:11 *These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.*

Biblical *hope* can be described as "joyful certainty". Remember-HE WON! HE IS RETURNING!

V3- *AND- we glory in tribulations!* Trials- Pressing together, pressure, purging.

Glory here speaks of joy, gladness, seeing the beauty- in tribulations!

Glory in tribulation; in every trial there is opportunity for God to manifest Himself in your life.

Tribulation produces perseverance- Patience, endurance

V4- *Perseverance, character-* Character= Integrity through testing, character shaped by experience
Character, hope- Hope is a joyful confidence in God's character, in His faithfulness. Enduring through trials we see God's work in and through us, this logically lead us to expect Him to continue being Himself.

V5- This *hope* will not disappoint because God loves us and leads us! God, the Holy Spirit, takes up residence within us and leads us in truth, comforts us with His presence and leads us in love. The love of God will be detailed even further in v6-11 which describe God's actions of love toward us.

V5-10 "What makes the difference between a Christian whose faith grows through suffering and a Christian whose faith withers under suffering? The difference is here in this passage, and it has to do with how we view God and His love. If we see our suffering as evidence of God's love, we will rejoice in our sufferings. If we see our suffering as evidence of God's wrath, we will become embittered and angry." Ray Stedman

V6- Mankind does not have the strength to resist temptation, at just the right time in history, Jesus died for whosoever would believe. His sinless life, crucifixion, resurrection and bodily ascension are facts of history.

V7,8 God demonstrates a love greater than man has known. A love where the Just willingly dies for His enemies. God's love is the greatest of love!

V9- His death and then His victory over death has saved us by paying our sin debt (Romans 3:22-26). We are now His and the judgement that was due upon us has been taken by Him. A born again Christian will not face the wrath of the Lamb (Revelation 6:16, 17) which will be poured out on those who reject Jesus.

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."
Ephesians 2:13

V10- If we experienced God's love while we were rejecting Him, how much greater will our understanding be now that we have turned to Him. *Reconciled-* To receive one into favor.

V11- The joy of knowing you are forgiven, received by God and reconciled by Him!

V12-21 These verses touch on the basis of how our justification was possible. Sin entered the world through one man, Adam. Justification was brought to sinners through one Man, Jesus.

V12- Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-6. We inherited our sinful nature from Adam.

V13- Lawlessness was present but not recognized because the law was not yet revealed.

V14- Even before the law was revealed people died because of sin which first took place by Adam in the garden of Eden. Death entered the world through sin. Adam is a type in that Adam's actions affected all of humanity.

V15- The contrast is great; Adam's offense brought death, Jesus' death brought life!

V16, 17- "Death reigned from Adam. Life reigns from Christ. If one man can cause the world to die, then how much more can the triumph of Jesus over death bring life to those in Him." Chuck Smith

V18- Understanding the history of sin helps us to understand the principle of 'Justification by Faith'. Understanding that sin was brought through one man, Adam, it is easier to understand that reconciliation can also be brought through one Man, Jesus.

V19- Obedience is key! Knowing God's promises and then obeying those promises through His Spirit, in His power, for His glory and for our joy!

V20- The law revealed the depth and magnitude of sin yet grace removes all sin. Grace wins!

V21- The Old Testament made a covering for sin. Grace through Jesus has brought the removal of sin's debt, sin no longer reigns! *Grace reigns through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!*
