

## Romans 5 Part 1 Tony Hewson

Revision of what we have learned so far.

The book of Romans is about the the gospel - the good news

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Remember that the gospel is a message revealed by God not thought up by men and from His viewpoint it is good news that men and women who deserve punishment have been provided with a means of escaping his wrath.

Chapter 1 The position of the Natural man who deliberately and totally ignores the Creator God and the consequences of such action.

Chapter 2 The position of the moral man who believes there is a God to whom he is answerable but measuring himself against others, believes his works will be good enough to please God He does not realise however the standard of absolute perfection that God demands and that Gods present forbearance in not judging instantly is to give men the chance to repent.

Chapter 3 Even Jews, the people who had been given the scriptures, and so knew the will of God were under His wrath because knowing his will did not mean they had the desire or power to do it. They were as wicked and rebellious as everyone else and knowing the law only condemned them.

The way of justification is described, Christ's perfect righteousness imputed to us and the judgment of our sins laid on him. God's justice and mercy both satisfied by what Christ did.

Chapter 4 Abraham was considered righteous by God not by obedience to the Law but by faith in the promises of God that he would be the father of a multitude of people even though he was old and his wife barren. Circumcision was actually seal of the righteousness that comes by faith, not a covenant of works. Righteousness is imputed to all who trust in Christ, "if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification".

Chapter 5 Paul now turns to the subject of Assurance – how we can know that this is all true, that we are saved despite our sin and that God will keep his promises. How we can know that we are saved.

The He covers this subject in chapters 5 to 8 as we shall see, though in chapters 6 and 7 he also deals with two questions raised by this teaching.

Chapter 6 Paul deals with the issue of antinomianism. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" The most frequent attack on the doctrine of salvation by grace alone is that it encourages sin. People may wonder, "If I am saved by grace and all my sins are forgiven, why not sin all I want?" That thinking is not the result of true conversion because true conversion yields a greater desire to obey, not a lesser one. God's desire—and our desire when we are regenerated by His Spirit—is that we strive to not sin, out of gratitude for His grace and forgiveness.

Chapter 7 Paul deals with the law showing that it was not useless or unnecessary but that its purpose was never to save us or sanctify us but to show our need for salvation and our complete inability to achieve it. Its whole purpose was to 'bring us to Christ'(Gal 3.24)

Romans 5 – Paul now turns to the subject of assurance

Assurance comes about by seeing Christian behaviour described in the Bible and saying 'that's me'

Verses 1 to 5 - Paul summarizes the effect of justification

Its cause "Having been justified". A one time act. It is a legal term we have been declared righteous. It occurs when we believe the word of God, that is that we deserve wrath because of our sin, our works cannot appease that wrath, but Christ has borne our sins on the cross. This faith is not an intellectual assent to the 'facts' of the gospel. But a whole hearted trust in Christ that results in a change in our behaviour.

Its consequences

Verse 1. Justification brings us peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

There is war between God and man

God is justifiably angry at our rebellion and disobedience.

Anything other than perfect obedience to his precepts is disobedience, not just what we do but what we neglect to do. His justice means he cannot ignore this disobedience but sin must be punished.

This disobedience is not through ignorance but deliberate, we choose to act against what we know is his will for his law is written on our consciences. Thus we are deliberate rebels.

We are equally at war with God, we do not want his rule over us, we are hostile towards him. Not that men are irreligious but they do not want the God of the Bible. The result is that men hate and

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

### Today

**Speaker Tony Hewson**

- JCF 5.00pm

**Next Sunday** Arnold Fruchtenbaum

### Thursday Kidz Club

6:30 - 8:00 pm

7 - 12 year olds

Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

### Prayer

**Howard and Monika Harper**, Mongolia, would like us to pray for Bruce Markham a building engineer from Wellington, who is on his way to Ula Bator to join with their assemblies in building a Student Hostel and young people outreach, which is close to their centre in Ula Bator. A large building group will join him in June from an assembly in Brisbane to complete the interior of the building. Pray for Bruce as he will face many problems and challenges. Pray also for the others that will be joining him.

**Ian and Judith Payne**, India, would like to ask for prayer for Ian who is in the UK at the moment. He is doing public relations and fund raising work and also visiting Universities the SAIACS have had some association with as to the possibilities of developing stronger links in the future.

**Peter and Mathilde Hanscamp**, Asia would like prayer for Mathilde as she continues to be involved in pastoral care work in their church in New Zealand. Recently the doctor told her that she has a low-grade viral infection. Not much can be done for this condition so please pray that she will be well enough for their trip overseas during March and early April.

