

Abundant Grace

FAMILY THEME: Justified by Faith STUDY TEXT: Romans 5:1-21
October 28, 2018

Romans 5:1-8

Thank God for the peace and blessings that come from a right relationship with God. Too many think of Christian living as keeping enough of God's rules that He won't strike them down and perhaps begrudgingly let them into Heaven. That is not what Paul had in mind. We cannot justify ourselves; we can only be thankful for the justification God provides to us. That is the way of peace, true peace. It is not merely a ceasefire until the next time we irritate God. It is a new relationship, with nothing left for us to fight about. We can actually live as God's friends, and thrive in new life with Him. **Discussion:**

- How is the peace that we get through justification different from what most people call peace today?
- How do verses 6-8 show the depth and greatness of God's love for us?

Romans 5:9-11

Serve Christ with joy, no longer fearing God's wrath. Consider what great grace God showed to us when we were still His enemies: He called forth a nation to demonstrate His Law in practice; He set up a nation through whom to send a Redeemer, the Messiah; He sent Jesus; He provided the basis for our forgiveness. If that is what God did for us while we were enemies, just think about what He has in store for us now that we are His friends, His own people! We need not live in constant fear of "slipping up." Many have had parents, teachers, and others in their lives who seemed to delight in pointing out every conceivable fault and problem with us. God is not that way. He has invested heavily in our fellowship with Him and delights in helping us live within it. **Discussion:**

- How does our justification go beyond just a declaration of righteousness in God's eyes?
- How does no longer fearing God's wrath free you for living in righteousness?

Romans 5:2, 12-21

Stand strong and confident, serving Christ in the abundant grace we have in Him. We never know what all the consequences of our own actions will be. Look at all the misery, death, and suffering that came through Adam's disobedience. Likewise, look at all the grace, forgiveness, and life that came through what Jesus did. We can foresee some likely results from our actions, but we never see everything. Our part is to spare no effort at showing His love and grace to those around us. Since we do not know which acts of obedience will have the best "payoff," we should sow the seed liberally and with joy. Our part is to put the seed out there. We live expectantly, eager to see what God will do. God gives the increase. Unplanted seed gives no harvest. **Discussion:**

- From these verses, how would you contrast the results of Adam's sin and the results of Christ's death on the cross?
- How did sin reign in death, and how does grace reign through righteousness (verse 21)?