

Romans Chapter Five

Romans 5:1-5 – Blessings of Justification

This section is a study in the fruits of being justified before God.

v1. "BEING THEREFORE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST;" (ASV)

Therefore, this word means because of; because of what? Because Jesus Christ our Lord was delivered for our offenses, our sins, and was raised up again we who are in Christ are justified. We have been freed from the effects of our past sins. Even though guilty, we will stand before the judgment bar of God justified, forgiven, acquitted of our wrong doing in this life. How are we get "into Christ"?

Galatians 3:27 "FOR AS MANY OF YOU AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST DID PUT ON CHRIST." (ASV)

Since we know that we have been justified, that we are children of God, that we have "PUT ON CHRIST" we are at peace; at peace with ourselves and at peace with God. So God and the Son of God are one, when we enter into this union (become one with Christ) we also have peace with God. Jesus tells us:

"THESE THINGS HAVE I SPOKEN UNTO YOU, THAT IN ME YE MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YE HAVE TRIBULATION: BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD." **John 16:33** (ASV)

Oh, we will have tribulation, we will have trials, we will have troubles but if we are in Christ we will also have an everlasting peace:

Colossians 1:20 "AND THROUGH HIM TO RECONCILE ALL THINGS UNTO HIMSELF, HAVING MADE PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS; THROUGH HIM, I SAY, WHETHER THINGS UPON THE EARTH, OR THINGS IN THE HEAVENS." (ASV)

And Paul goes on to tell us that we have been reconciled. From prior study we know that when we are reconciled; those things (sins) that made us an abomination to God have been removed.

v2. "THROUGH WHOM ALSO WE HAVE HAD OUR ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE WHEREIN WE STAND; AND WE REJOICE IN HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD." (ASV)

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It is through our faith in Jesus Christ, our obedience to the "PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY" (**James 1:25**) and by the provisions that Jesus made for us to enter into his kingdom, the church, that we have access into this favor of God in which all true Christians stand.

It is through Jesus Christ that we have access to this favor as Paul tells the Ephesians in **Ephesians 2:18** "FOR THROUGH HIM WE BOTH HAVE OUR ACCESS IN ONE SPIRIT UNTO THE FATHER." (ASV)

Since we are in this state of favor with God; we have our sins remitted due to our obedience through faith. We, though human, have been made acceptable to Him. We have peace with Him; we enjoy blessings presently in this world and look forward to even greater blessings in the world that is to come. The Hebrew writer confirms to us "BUT CHRIST AS A SON, OVER HIS HOUSE; WHOSE HOUSE ARE WE, IF WE HOLD FAST OUR BOLDNESS AND THE GLORYING OF OUR HOPE FIRM UNTO THE END." **Hebrews 3:6** (ASV)

v3. "AND NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE ALSO REJOICE IN OUR TRIBULATIONS: KNOWING THAT TRIBULATION WORKETH STEDFASTNESS (patience, KJV);" (ASV)

We understand that we should rejoice in our hope of glory with God, but rejoice in tribulations? This concept is foreign to the minds of most men; consequently it is difficult for us to understand. Jesus endured humiliation, scourging and suffering and death on the cross. But did he rejoice in that suffering? Not in the actual physical abuse that his body had to endure. But with knowledge of the result, he rejoiced in the redemption of mankind and patiently endured the affliction so that God's purpose might be achieved. True faith in Christ brings the same spirit to man. As we partake of this spirit, we rejoice when our faith is strong enough that we can endure whatever affliction we encounter here in order to be considered faithful children of God.

Tribulation brings about patience or steadfastness (ASV). This is an iron will, that trait of character which enables us to bear with patience all the ills of physical life. Afflictions, if rightly used, have the effect to form this trait in our character just as the fire of a forge or furnace and pounding with a hammer strengthens and shapes pieces of steel. A couple of examples:

In **Acts 5:29** Peter and the apostles told the Sanhedrin "...WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN." verse **40** says "...WHEN THEY HAD CALLED THE APOSTLES UNTO THEM, THEY BEAT THEM AND CHARGED THEM NOT TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF JESUS, AND LET THEM GO."

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but verses **41-42** "THEY THEREFORE DEPARTED FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE COUNCIL, REJOICING THAT THEY WERE COUNTED WORTHY TO SUFFER DISHONOR FOR THE NAME. AND EVERY DAY, IN THE TEMPLE AND AT HOME, THEY CEASED NOT TO TEACH AND TO PREACH JESUS AS THE CHRIST." (ASV)

Paul tells us that "WHEREFORE I TAKE PLEASURE IN WEAKNESSES, IN INJURIES, IN NECESSITIES, IN PERSECUTIONS, IN DISTRESSES, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE: FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG." II **Corinthians 12:10** (ASV)

v4. "AND STEDFASTNESS, APPROVEDNESS; AND APPROVEDNESS, HOPE:" (ASV)

The Holy Spirit through the writer James tells us:

James 1:2-3 "COUNT IT ALL JOY, MY BRETHREN, WHEN YE FALL INTO MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS; KNOWING THAT THE PROVING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE." (ASV)

Just as temptations, the endurance of temptations, the rejection of temptations will exercise our conscience and strengthen us spiritually; the endurance of affliction will strengthen and harden us to the influence of the outside world as well.

In verse 4, the KJV translates the Greek as "PATIENCE, EXPERIENCE" instead of "STEDFASTNESS" and "APPROVEDNESS". As applied to Christian life, this "EXPERIENCE" or "APPROVEDNESS" tells us that we have been put to the test by affliction, have successfully endured whatever ordeal was required and now stand proven and purified by God. This "EXPERIENCE" or "APPROVEDNESS" causes us to trust God, and to trust his promises gives us hope and assurance that we will enjoy the blessings found in those promises.

v5. "AND HOPE PUTTETH NOT TO SHAME; BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HATH BEEN SHED ABROAD IN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH WAS GIVEN UNTO US." (ASV)

Our hope and assurance of future glory and blessings is what enables us to endure with patience whatever sufferings or afflictions that we might encounter in this life. Brother David Lipscomb writes that this "Hope reaches forward, pierces the vale of the future, takes hold of the blessings reserved in heaven, and serves as an anchor to hold the soul firm and steadfast in its union with God."

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God gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles in order that they might know the thoughts of His mind:

"BUT WE RECEIVED, NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD, BUT THE SPIRIT WHICH IS FROM GOD; THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS THAT WERE FREELY GIVEN TO US OF GOD." **I Corinthians 2:12** (ASV)

The same principle pertains to the gift of the Holy Spirit as received by all of God's children. In imparting to us the Word of God; the knowledge of God, he also imparts the same mind, the same feelings and disposition that God possesses and cherishes. We gain this knowledge through a thorough study of the words that the Spirit has provided to us through the Bible as the revelation of that portion of the mind of God that he has chosen to allow us to see.

Romans 5:6-11 – Christ's Sacrificial Love

v6. "FOR WHILE WE WERE YET WEAK, IN DUE SEASON CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY" (ASV)

Christ died while we were yet sinners, weak, and destitute of the means to save ourselves, either by atonement for our past sins or the fruit of our future obedience. "IN DUE TIME" at the proper time, in due season, Christ came and died for all of us. There was a long preparation; a select nation must be prepared by centuries of discipline. Time must be allowed for the human race to grow into the age when history was recorded so that the proofs of the facts related to the coming of the Son of God could be established and recorded. A universal world language, more precise than any that had existed before it, must be brought about (Greek). A world government must be established so that freedom of movement and travel throughout the world could help this new revelation to spread throughout the inhabited world. A God prepared the time to send his Son, the Messiah.

The balance of the verse simply says that Christ died for the ungodly.

v7. "FOR SCARCELY FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN WILL ONE DIE: FOR PERADVENTURE FOR THE GOOD MAN SOME ONE WOULD EVEN DARE TO DIE." (ASV)

For a righteous man you might find someone who would be willing to die. A good man will not only do what justice or right demands, but will go beyond this and do what love, mercy, and kindness requires. For such a person as this maybe someone, moved by love and gratitude, might be found who would die.

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It's rare, that is why our military reserves only the highest awards of valor for those who would use their bodies to smother a grenade or continuously or conspicuously place themselves in mortal danger to protect or save others.

v8. "BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT, WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US." (ASV)

Jesus taught his disciples that:

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS." **John 15:13** (ASV)

Great love is demonstrated by someone that would die for his friends. But God's love went well beyond that level of measurement; well beyond what man in his limited capability could imagine, didn't it? "WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS", while we were still enemies of God; while we were such that God could not even tolerate our presence in his company, Christ died for us.

Speaking of God, the prophet writes:

Habakkuk 1:13 "THOU THAT ART OF PURER EYES THAN TO BEHOLD EVIL, AND THAT CANST NOT LOOK ON PERVERSENESS,(Iniquity, KJV)..." (ASV)

God, who can't even stand to look at us in our sin, "SO LOVED" us that:

"...HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE." **John 3:16** (ASV)

Peter writes that he did this that we might be redeemed, that we might be brought to God and to be brought to God we must first be made acceptable to Him:

"BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR SINS ONCE, THE RIGHTEOUS FOR THE UNRIGHTEOUS, THAT HE MIGHT BRING US TO GOD; BEING PUT TO DEATH IN THE FLESH, BUT MADE ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT;" **I Peter 3:18** (ASV)

Are we to be like God in this respect? Are we to bless our enemies, do good to them that persecute us, to pray for them that use us despitely, do good to them that abuse us? Jesus tells us to in **Matthew 5:44** and **Luke 6:28**. The Apostle John goes even further than that:

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I John 3:16 "HEREBY KNOW WE LOVE, BECAUSE HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US: AND WE OUGHT TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN." (ASV)

v9. "MUCH MORE THEN, BEING NOW JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, SHALL WE BE SAVED FROM THE WRATH OF GOD THROUGH HIM." (ASV)

Christ died for us while we were still sinners; enemies of God. How much more willing will God be to save those who have now been justified by the blood of His son? God, through the Holy Spirit and the pen of the Apostle Paul tells us that He will be even that much more willing to save us. Even us, who have been redeemed; but who flounder, fail, and fall and then have to get up and try again; who in our own estimation, if we're humble and honest, know that we must be weak and pitiful in the sight of Almighty God.

Yet we're reminded by Paul in his letter to the church at Thessalonica:

"AND TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, EVEN JESUS, WHO DELIVERETH US FROM THE WRATH TO COME." **I Thessalonians 1:10** (ASV)

We have redemption; we have been delivered from the "WRATH TO COME". But that deliverance is conditional, it's not completely "free" in that it has no requirements. We must walk, live, conduct ourselves in a certain manner, after a certain set of standards. The Apostle John describes it this way:

"BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP ONE WITH ANOTHER, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN." **I John 1:7** (ASV)

v10. "FOR IF, WHILE WE WERE ENEMIES, WE WERE RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON, MUCH MORE, BEING RECONCILED, SHALL WE BE SAVED BY HIS LIFE;"

Most folks who consider themselves religious have gotten this just exactly backwards. Instead of reconciling man to God they want to reconcile God to man, make God what man wants God to be. God isn't reconciled to man but rather man is reconciled to God. We have to conform to what God would have us to be; we are not to bend, twist, and try to make God and his Word conform in our minds to what we think He should be. We are saved by entering into Christ and living life His way, the reproducing the life of Christ in our lives. The salvation promised to man is salvation from sin.

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When saved from sin, we are united to God and inherit his glories. No blessing or favor is provided outside of Christ.

Paul speaks of this when he writes in **II Corinthians 4:10-11** "ALWAYS BEARING ABOUT IN THE BODY THE DYING OF JESUS, THAT THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MAY BE MANIFESTED IN OUR BODY. FOR WE WHO LIVE ARE ALWAYS DELIVERED UNTO DEATH FOR JESUS' SAKE, THAT THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MAY BE MANIFESTED IN OUR MORTAL FLESH."
(ASV)

And again in **II Corinthians 5:18-19** " BUT ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD, WHO RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST, AND GAVE UNTO US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION; TO WIT, THAT GOD WAS IN CHRIST RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF, NOT RECKONING UNTO THEM THEIR TRESPASSES, AND HAVING COMMITTED UNTO US THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION." (ASV)

And we gain our relationship with God and his Son, Jesus Christ, through "THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION". We are reconciled to God by removing that from our lives that is wrong, or unrighteous and adding those things that are right or righteous. Just as when we reconcile an account or our checkbook; we take out those things, if necessary, that are wrong and put in those things that are right; those things that will give us a true picture of our status with God.

v11. "AND NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE ALSO REJOICE IN GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE RECONCILIATION."

With salvation from our sins and the other blessings that we have as God's children our "JOY" or "REJOICING" should be unlimited. There was no sacrifice for the sins of mankind until Jesus, but we enjoy redemption, or reconciliation, or their removal.

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Atonement, reconciliation, redemption, justification; all mean the same thing in scripture. The following is a synopsis of the comparison of the Mosaic vs the Law of Christ:

<u>Justification</u> <u>From Sin</u>		
<u>Mosaic Law</u>		<u>Law of Liberty</u>
Meritorious By Works of the Law	versus	James 2:12 Gratuitous
Romans 4:4 Must be Sinless Romans 3:10	versus	By Faith in Christ Romans 3:24 Sins Forgiven Romans 4:5
<u>Therefore</u>		
Without Pardon Romans 3:30	versus	Through Pardon Romans 4:6-8
Without Grace Romans 4:4	versus	Through Grace Romans 3:24
Without Christ Galatians 2:21	versus	Through Christ Romans 3:24
Without Faith Romans 4:14	versus	By Faith Romans 3:28
Without Obedience of Faith Romans 4:14	versus	Through the Obedience of Faith Romans 4:12
<u>Therefore</u>		
An Occasion of Boasting Romans 4:2	versus	Exclusive of Boasting Romans 3:27
Paid as a Debt Romans 4:4	versus	Given as a Gift Ephesians 2:8

Source: "A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles by David Lipscomb, Page 100

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We have been provided with justification; that is forgiveness of sins.

Romans 5:12-15 – The Reign of Sin and Death

v.12. "THEREFORE, AS THROUGH ONE MAN SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD, AND DEATH THROUGH SIN; AND SO DEATH PASSED UNTO ALL MEN, FOR THAT ALL SINNED." (ASV)

By one man, Adam, sin entered into world. Sin is transgression of God's law (**I John 3:4**); man was given law, but we're only told about one.

"BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE." **Genesis 2:17** (ASV)

Now that was simple wasn't it? But man failed to follow God's Law and yielded to the temptation of Satan:

" AND WHEN THE WOMAN SAW THAT THE TREE WAS GOOD FOR FOOD, AND THAT IT WAS A DELIGHT TO THE EYES, AND THAT THE TREE WAS TO BE DESIRED TO MAKE ONE WISE, SHE TOOK OF THE FRUIT THEREOF, AND DID EAT; AND SHE GAVE ALSO UNTO HER HUSBAND WITH HER, AND HE DID EAT." **Genesis 3:6** (ASV)

It was through this sin that God brought physical death into the world - by this one sin. Since God can in no way tolerate sin in his presence (**Habakkuk 1:13**), the human family also suffered spiritual death, separation from God. Had Adam never committed another sin in all his entire life the whole human family would still have encountered death as a result of that one sin.

v13. "(FOR UNTIL THE LAW SIN WAS IN THE WORLD; BUT SIN IS NOT IMPUTED WHEN THERE IS NO LAW.) (ASV)

If God had never given man a law could there have been such a thing as sin? Again as we noted earlier in **I John 3:4**, sin is defined by God as transgression of God's law. Throughout the time from Adam to Moses there was no written law. There was law, no doubt about that. Cain and Able were taught how God expected to be worshipped, Able followed his instructions; Cain didn't.

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Noah was considered righteous in the sight of God and was given specific instructions (law) that he was required to follow in order to save himself and his family from destruction. All were given God's personal attention and schooled or taught by Him to respect His authority and commandments.

v14. "NEVERTHELESS DEATH REIGNED FROM ADAM UNTIL MOSES, EVEN OVER THEM THAT HAD NOT SINNED AFTER THE LIKENESS OF ADAM'S TRANSGRESSION, WHO IS A FIGURE OF HIM THAT WAS TO COME." (ASV)

Death, both physical and spiritual, came as the result of the sin of Adam. He had every advantage, a positive law, simple and easy to follow, all the blessings of being one who literally walked with God in the still of the evening, the most beautiful place ever created on earth in which to live. He had opportunity to choose and chose badly. Once Satan's influence gained a foothold in the hearts and minds of men the world became so evil that by the time that God's thoughts are recorded in **Genesis 6:6** "...IT REPENTED THE LORD THAT HE HAD MADE MAN ON THE EARTH..." Even though man had been removed from the garden and could no longer transgress the one law that God tells us about, God had given them other laws to follow because all men sinned greatly but not the same sin that Adam committed. Sin is transgression of God's law.

Paul also tells us in this verse that Adam was a "FIGURE OF HIM THAT WAS TO COME" and we see an explanation of this verse in Paul's other writings.

I Corinthians 15:21-22 "FOR SINCE BY MAN CAME DEATH, BY MAN CAME ALSO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD. FOR AS IN ADAM ALL DIE, SO ALSO IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE ALIVE." (ASV)

I Corinthians 15:45 "SO ALSO IT IS WRITTEN, THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING SOUL. THE LAST ADAM BECAME A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT." (ASV)

v15. "BUT NOT AS THE TRESPASS, SO ALSO IS THE FREE GIFT. FOR IF BY THE TRESPASS OF THE ONE THE MANY DIED, MUCH MORE DID THE GRACE OF GOD, AND THE GIFT BY THE GRACE OF THE ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST, ABOUND UNTO THE MANY." (ASV)

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"BUT NOT AS THE TRESPASS, SO ALSO IS THE FREE GIFT." Paul not only compares Adam with Christ but at the same time and in the same manner gives us a contrast between the two. The result of their actions on this earth has affected all mankind for all time. They are opposites. Through one came death, through the other came life.

"FOR IF BY THE TRESPASS OF THE ONE THE MANY DIED" Through the offence or trespass of the one man (Adam) sin came into the world and as a result uncountable numbers have died both physically and spiritually. Adam, as soon as he sinned, was both physically and spiritually cut off from his relationship with God. Had it not been for the redemption which is in Christ, he (and we) would have died and been lost forever.

"MUCH MORE DID THE GRACE OF GOD" Whether the sin of Adam, the sins of others who lived according to God's law of their time or to the sins we have committed, the death of Jesus provides redemption for us all.

"AND THE GIFT BY THE GRACE OF THE ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST, ABOUND UNTO THE MANY."

By the sin of Adam all die a physical death and go to our earthly grave. The grace and gift of God will bring them (and us) out of their graves and restore us to life, so that all that was lost in Adam can be recovered in Christ. This was not done by God because of his debt to us, God didn't and doesn't owe mankind anything, but it was given through his grace, His love.

Romans 5:16-21 – Condemnation and Grace Both Universal

v16. "AND NOT AS THROUGH ONE THAT SINNED, SO IS THE GIFT: FOR THE JUDGMENT CAME OF ONE UNTO CONDEMNATION, BUT THE FREE GIFT CAME OF MANY TRESPASSES UNTO JUSTIFICATION." (ASV)

Through one man that sinned death came and condemnation came to all mankind. One man's spiritual death brought both physical and spiritual ruin to mankind, or rather; both spiritual ruin and physical decay are results from that one cause.

The free gift of God's grace is for the justification of many offences that all offenders may live spiritually, and as acceptable children of God.

v17. "FOR IF, BY THE TRESPASS OF THE ONE, DEATH REIGNED THROUGH THE ONE; MUCH MORE SHALL THEY THAT RECEIVE THE ABUNDANCE OF GRACE AND OF THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS REIGN IN LIFE THROUGH THE ONE, EVEN JESUS CHRIST.."

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We're told that the terms death and life were used differently in the original language than we use them today. Life meant freedom from corruption or suffering; death meant just the opposite, subject to corruption, decay and suffering.

I doubt that any of us would deny that we started to die the day we drew our first breath. Even as we grew to maturity our physical bodies underwent changes that were irreversible in a relentless march through time that will only end when time ends for this physical body in which we live. What we call "physical death" is but the end of that process. It is all too often brought about by suffering, disease and decay, ending with this shell of clay we live in returning to its original form.

But we who have become God's children, even though we may suffer physically, we should not suffer the spiritual anguish, sorrow, fear and woe that would come from being spiritually lost eternally. We receive the abundance of God's grace. If our lives are as they should be we have the gift of righteousness that will keep us from eternal punishment and suffering.

v18. "SO THEN AS THROUGH ONE TRESPASS THE JUDGMENT CAME UNTO ALL MEN TO CONDEMNATION; EVEN SO THROUGH ONE ACT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THE FREE GIFT CAME UNTO ALL MEN TO JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE." (ASV)

So then since through one man sin entered the world and death through sin; so death passed unto all men, for all have sinned. This subject presents a level of justice and right that is hard for the human mind to reconcile. For one sin, God condemned Adam to die and in so doing also condemned all generations that followed to die physically as well.

Through the act of one righteous man; the death of Christ on the cross; God also provided a free gift, the gift of justification as a counter balance or offset to the judgment of man and his condemnation. Just as sure as the punishment of Adam's sin caused all mankind to suffer physical death; through Christ's resurrection all mankind will also be raised from that physical death in due time. One offsets the other. Also as through Adam's sin, sin came into the world, as well through Christ's sacrifice redemption is provided to mankind. There is no difference; man's condemnation is conditional and brought upon all who sin. Likewise, Christ's redemption is conditional and provided only unto those who obey the commandments of God.

v19. "FOR AS THROUGH THE ONE MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE THE MANY WERE MADE SINNERS, EVEN SO THROUGH THE OBEDIENCE OF THE ONE SHALL THE MANY BE MADE RIGHTEOUS." (ASV)

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Through the sin of one man, Adam, "MANY WERE MADE SINNERS" not because of any guilt from Adam's sin but because of conditions which followed his sin that presented increased temptations to sin. Men are made sinners by their own disobedience. They are made righteous by their obedience followed by forgiveness. This means of righteousness is revealed in the gospel (**Romans 1:16-17**).

v20. "MOREOVER THE LAW ENTERED, THAT THE OFFENCE MIGHT ABOUND. BUT WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND." (ASV)

Law was not given to make sinners, but law resulted in more sin because law provided more prohibitions and many rebelled against those prohibitions. "WHERE SIN ABOUNDED, GRACE DID MUCH MORE ABOUND." When sin abounded or became the way of man, then God's grace abounded even more in that he sent his Son as redemption for sin. But men are not to sin to make grace abound as Paul explains in Romans 6.

Jesus said "IF I HAD NOT COME AND SPOKEN UNTO THEM, THEY HAD NOT HAD SIN: BUT NOW THEY HAVE NO EXCUSE FOR THEIR SIN." **John 15:22** (ASV)

"WHAT THEN IS THE LAW? IT WAS ADDED BECAUSE OF TRANSGRESSIONS, TILL THE SEED SHOULD COME TO WHOM THE PROMISE HATH BEEN MADE; AND IT WAS ORDAINED THROUGH ANGELS BY THE HAND OF A MEDIATOR." **Galatians 3:19** (ASV)

"BUT BEFORE FAITH CAME, WE WERE KEPT IN WARD UNDER THE LAW, SHUT UP UNTO THE FAITH WHICH SHOULD AFTERWARDS BE REVEALED." **Galatians 3:23** (ASV)

Paul tells us through his writing to the young preacher Timothy " and the grace of our Lord abounded exceedingly with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." **I Timothy 1:14** (ASV)

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v21. "THAT, AS SIN REIGNED IN DEATH, EVEN SO MIGHT GRACE REIGN THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS UNTO ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD." (ASV)

Sin reigns unto spiritual death; grace reigns through righteousness (revealed in the gospel) unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. "THANKS **be** UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT" **II Corinthians 9:15** Paul echos what should be the prayer of every man who walks this earth; "THANKS BE TO GOD..."

The death of Jesus Christ far more than overcomes the effects of the sin of Adam. Not only does God's grace provide for remission of sins, but also for the many spiritual blessings that are made available to us in Christ as Paul writes:.

Ephesians 1:3 "BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HATH BLESSED US WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST:" (ASV)