

Read Romans 5: 1-5

1. "Therefore..." Remember, what is it "there for?" Look back to ch 4 - Jesus... ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.
2. We have are justified = put into a right relationship with.
3. "We have peace with God..." - faith has done what the law failed to do. (Restored us to God.)
Question - How (or when, or where) do you feel that you are at peace with God?
4. We have obtained "access to this grace"
5. Look at the progression which our sufferings are to produce:
suffering => endurance=> character=>hope=> will not disappoint (= "is not an illusion")
or troubles => fortitude => character
"When your hope is in God, it cannot turn to dust and ashes." (Barclay)
6. Sufferings = not our commons aches & pains but opposition & persecution of a hostile world
7. Boast in our sufferings - not a stoic fortitude, but rejoicing - there is a rationale behind our suffering. It leads to glory, but also can be productive, producing endurance, etc..
Question - how has your faith grown through suffering?
8. "God's love has been poured into our hearts" -
Question - how have you felt or experienced God's love?

Read Romans 5: 6-11

1. "Christ died for the ungodly" or "while we were still sinners" = in a state of hostility towards God
"the fact that X died for us is the final proof of God's love"
2. "We have received reconciliation" - we are at peace with God
3. "Christ's death changed our status (we are now justified in God's eyes because he died for us)
Christ's risen life changes our state - he is still with us always to help and guide us, to fill us w his strength to overcome temptation, to clothe our lives w something of his radiance. He helps us to quit our sin and become good." (Barclay)
Thus, Our change of status is justification.
Our change of state is sanctification.
Question - where have you seen the power of the risen Christ changing your life?

Read Romans 5: 12-14 Adam and Christ

1. How did sin come into the world through Adam?
2. Thus, we will inherit a sinful nature or "death spread to all" or "all have sinned."
3. Cf 1 Cor 15:21: ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.
4. Paul sees Adam, not just as an individual, but as all of humanity. Because of this, his sin was the sin of all. All successive humans will inherit this tendency to sin.
5. Thus, from Adam to Moses (even before the law) people died - due to Adam's fall, Adam's sin.

Read Romans 5: 15-17

1. "The free gift" - vs. the trespass - **What is the free gift Paul talks about?**
2. "Many died through one man's trespass" - **What was Adam's trespass?**
3. Trespasses bring judgment and condemnation. Grace and righteousness bring dominion in life.

Read Romans 5: 18-21

1. “Therefore... - what’s it there for? It refers to the righteousness that only Christ can bring.
2. If Adam brought condemnation for all, then Christ’s “act of righteousness” (=the cross) makes justification & life available for all. If Adam made us sinners, then Christ made us righteous.
3. The law brought even more trespasses (multiplied). Through the law, the Jews became aware of their many infractions of it. “but where sin increased, grace abounded even more.” It makes Christ’s ransom of our sins even more wonderful.
4. Being justified leads to eternal life! We should re-read this whole chapter with this last sentence in mind!