

Romans 5

“Righteousness from God - Explained”

5/23/12

Introduction

- The Content of Romans is not hard to understand
 - As long as you remember it is helpful to compare the content of Romans to a great theological city

The Book of Romans – The Great Theological City

#1 – The Courthouse – Romans 1-5

- Paul introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation he spend the first five chapters showing are we are all guilty before God

#2 – The Power Plant – Romans 6-8

- Chapters 6-8 help us understand that is power to live out this Christian life God is calling us to – Pastor Rob is doing an in-depth series from these three chapters on our weekend services, but we will cover them as well, just at a much more rapid pace

#3 – The Synagogue – Romans 9-11

- in chapters 9-11 Paul shares with us how Israel fits into God plan now that there is this new thing called the church and answers the questions, has the church replaced Israel, where do they fit into God’s plan and how does God’s sovereignty fit with man’s free will – great stuff in this section

#4 – The Church – Romans 12-16

- in Paul’s final section of this book we will study how the church is practically suppose to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God is this book – Paul ends all of his letters very practically Romans is no exception

Now we are still in that first building, in the Courthouse, where Paul has been showing us we are all guilty before the Lord and we are all in need of a savior

- and now that we have that down, Paul has introduced a very important Biblical truth – We are sinners and we all need “Righteousness from God” – that is the only thing I going to save us
 - now Paul presentation of this upmost in important Bible truth breaks down as follows

Righteousness from God – Defined – Romans 3:21-31

Righteousness from God – Illustrated – Romans 4

Righteousness from God – Explained – Romans 5

- Now we have discovered what Righteousness from God is, and our need for it was illustrated last week in chapter 4 – if you missed you can get that study free online, download it as a podcast from I-tunes or free DVD – no excuse
 - Tonight we are going to see this truth of Righteousness from God Explained
- Because up to this point a person being introduced to these truths would understand our need for it and that it was possible to be saved like Abraham, but how and why – well that is our study for tonight
 - If you like to follow outlines, our study for tonight breaks down as follows

Righteousness from God – Explained – Romans 5

#1 - The Blessings - Romans 5:1-11

#2 - The Basis – Romans 5:12-21

- Lets look at these one at a time

Righteousness from God – Explained – Romans 5

#1 - The Blessings - Romans 5:1-11

- In listing of the blessings, of course we understand that we are going to be blessed in heaven, but God has blessings for us right now

We could spend weeks going through what Paul says here in chapter five, but that is not the purpose of what we are doing on Wednesday Nights

- it is my heart to keep continually moving through the scriptures
 - so we are going to focus on, though Paul says many things, we are going to focus in on five of the blessings

The Blessings of Righteousness from God

#1 – Peace with God – Romans 5:1

- **Isaiah 48:22 declares, “there is no peace for the wicked”**
 - The reality is before the work of the cross, and before you receive it – you were more than just a non-believer – you were an enemy of God
- Jesus said, you are either for me or against me, that person is my enemy
 - It's true – and because of that – there was no peace
 - Maybe you felt it rage in your heart – you knew what was right – but you continually rejected it

I remember taking my kids to Disneyland, a couple of years ago now, and we were meeting my Mom, and I told her, when you get into the park just call me – then I thought, how in the world did you meet at Disneyland before cell phones – she said, meet at the castle at noon – what if you were late, what if you were stuck in line??? – then you would just wait – ahhh – that sounds horrible

- and I was thinking about that and thinking this world is so difficult even as a believer – how does the world do it without Christ
 - how did we?? – I guess we didn't, that is why we are Christians

But you look at the world and you see, they struggle deeply with inner demons

- all one really needs to do is read the journals of the great atheist like David Hume and you see a deeply troubled man – not at all at peace in his heart
 - celebrities today – deeply troubled
 - not a real good advertisement for life without God

But friends what you have to know and understand is since God crashed into your darkness – the war is over, you can have peace

- So what – here's what
 - The enemy comes to you and me and says, you have sinned, God is so bummed at you – don't you even try to come to Him, He doesn't want to speak to you – I know, Sincere Satan

And we go along with it – your right – God's mad

- No, No, No – friends remember what Jesus went through – remember your standing with God never has and never will have anything to do with you, (other than you not receiving of His forgiveness) – nothing
 - the war is over

I don't know if you've read anything on this subject, but it was 1972 when the last Japanese's soldier was found on an island waiting for the American's to come. He was still building fortifications waiting for America, 1972, WWII ended in 1945 – that commitment! – that's sad – how sad for that guy, he missed 30 years of peace – Japan economy bombing – he could be head of Sony or Toyota, but here he is digging trenches on a remote Pacific island waiting for America

- we laugh – but do we really understand the war is over between you and God

He loves you, there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more, there is nothing you can do to make Him love you less

- because of Righteousness from God – the war is over
 - because of that....

#2 – Access to God – Romans 5:2

- Because the war is over, because God is in love, He sees you covered in His son – friends you can come before Him anytime
 - Wow – no that's huge

Because you see for centuries that was not the way it was

- the Jews understood the Holiness of God – it was seen in their temple
 - God's presence resided in the Holy of Holies – sounds like a great place to sit and worship – no you were struck down dead unless you were the High priest and only once a year

The Holy place was separated from the holy place by a veil, thick

- And only priests could go in the Holy Place
 - You see outside the Holy Place was the inner court – and that was as close to the Lord as you got if you were a normal Jewish man
- And if you were a gentile, or a woman – you couldn't even get that close – it was just the outer court for you
 - It was this way from the times of Moses until Jesus died on the cross

When Jesus died we are told the veil ripped from top to bottom, Paul tells the wall of separation had been broken down

- and the writer to the Hebrews says it best when He says...

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” – Hebrews 4:16

- great stuff – why????

Because again, the enemy comes and says, don't enter into His presence, He knows what you did. Don't pray – don't read your Bible, go to church??? – after your Saturday night – really

Friends – see the progression

- because of what Jesus did, and your simple acceptance of it
 - You have peace with God, the war is over
 - Because of that – you have access, anytime – when you are doing great – don't grow weary, don't become complacent – enter it
 - When you are in the pit of sin, especially then, cry out – how He longs to hear your voice – He died so He could, He did that the veil would rip and all men could enter in
- We have peace, we have access – now thirdly

#3 - Hope in the glory of God – Romans 5:2

- Because your salvation is not based on you keeping the law
 - How tenuous would that be – today I'm good, come for me know Lord, everything is confess, “why is this driver pulling out in front of me.. oh.... Didn't I just curse, did that guy just hit me, I am dying – that last thing I did was sin – ahhhh
- Crazy – no – It is not based on my works – I have now have peace, I can enter into His presence anytime
 - And so I know – someday I will be in the presence of God's glory
 - You can know that because of justification, just as if you never sinned – you are going to heaven

Now – wait, Paul says, the hope of glory of God, that doesn't sound to sure

- you need to understand the Biblical definition of Hope
 - it doesn't mean – I hope I am rich some day, I hope I go to college, I hope my boss doesn't fire me – no

“Hope” = the earnest expectation of coming good

There was a lady who went on a cruise and she was there at the dinner hour and she was checking out the men in the room. That guy was too short, that guy was too tall, that guy too fat,

too skinny, that guy... oh married, never mind. And then – one caught her eye. She walked over to this fellow and said to Him, I just have to tell you, you look exactly like my 3rd husband.. – The man shocked at that said, 3rd husband, woman how many times have you been married... she looked at him with a wink and said, just two...

- that is Biblical hope – she knows its going to happen
 - and some of you still trying to get that – you look just like my third husband, married twice..., you need to listen, listen

Friends, - we have hope, we have an earnest expectation of coming good – we know that we know that we know we are going to be in the presence of God one day

- why – our salvation isn't based on us
 - it's a blessing of Righteousness from God

#4 – Glory in Tribulation – Romans 5:3-5

- We glory in Tribulation! - We do?? – We do????
 - Well we at least have the option, the reason we have the option is because God is doing something in my life
- I wish there was a way to develop character other than hanging on to Jesus through thick and thin and sometimes a lot more thin
 - I wish there was a correspondence course – I really do - But there isn't

God allows things into my life

- Like Joseph I wonder – God what are you doing
- Like David I wonder – Lord how long will I live in a spiritual cave
 - But then I see as I go through these things, God develops in me things that can be there no other way
 - And I can, in confidence of Him and His love, rejoice, even in tribulation

See the progression

- The War is over, so we can go boldly into the throne room of God, we know because of salvation isn't based on us that we are going to heaven
 - And now, because we know, that this life isn't it, we know we will be rewarded in heaven, that haven is the prize
- Now we can actually glory in trials – why?

Because we are getting the proper perspective

- heaven is our home
 - Jesus said, in this life you shall suffer tribulation, (little t) – you will go through trials
- Now Paul – the one writing this He knew a thing or two about trials – He said in II Corinthians 11:24

From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness – besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. – II Corinthians 11:24-28

- And yet in check this out – in II Corinthians 4, he calls his trials light affliction – light??? I'd hate to see Paul's heavy

How could it be light – Romans 8 Paul says,

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” – Romans 8:16

Paul could say, I glory in Tribulation because He hoped in heaven, because He knew what He had to go through could not compare to what he would receive

- Paul gloried because of one blessing we have righteousness from God
 - Our fifth blessing is...

#5 – Assurance of the future – Romans 5:6-11

- How do I know Jesus loves me
 - Paul said Jesus demonstrated it in His death for you

“Demonstrated” – means to show in the best light

- God is saying – My love for you was shown in its best light on the cross of Calvary
 - This is so important to remember when we are going through trials
 - And to remember it was this demonstration that saves you

Then Paul makes the comparison..

- If Christ’s death did so much for us, how much more so now His life
 - When Jesus died for you, you were without Him, you were an enemy of God
 - And yet He loved you then – how much more now, as a child, as a follower of Him
- Your salvation was secured when you didn’t even know Him
 - How secure is your salvation now friends
- Again so important to know the truth, because Satan is a liar – you are not acceptable to God, oh more...

Because of Jesus provision, because of Righteousness from God – I am blessed, you are blessed

- You have peace – realize it
 - You have access – enter it
 - You have hope – you are going to heaven, let that sink into your heart
 - Because then
 - You can glory in Tribulation
 - And as you do character will be produced
 - And
 - Assurance for the future – He loved you when you were far from Him, He is totally for you now
 - So cling to Him and experience...

Life and Life more abundantly

- don’t let the enemy rip you off
 - you have it, you have it
 - enjoy it

Righteousness from God – Explained – Romans 5

#1 - The Blessings - Romans 5:1-11

#2 - The Basis – Romans 5:12-21

- Before we end, we need to consider how it is possible that we can receive Righteousness from God
 - How is that even possible??? – for someone who is such a wretch like me??
- To help us understand the basis, Paul wants us to understand the three truths laid before us in these last verses of chapter 5
 - And if you will apply yourself there are some pretty radical truths

The Basis – 3 Truths

#1 - The Truth about Adam – verses 12-14

- We are all radically effected by the one act of one man

The Adam bomb – I’m not talking about the one dropped on Japan on August 6th, 1945. Where one man, Harry Truman, gave the order and affected so many lives and the course of warfare.

- **NO** – I am talking about When Adam bombed in the garden

Because of that one act, by one man...

- every person, in fact all of the world was radically effected

Because of Adam’s sin 2 things entered the world

#1 - Sin entered the world

- God created this world a perfect place
 - The Bible says, He said it was good.
- But because of Adam's one act of disobedience you see all the wickedness and sin around
 - This world is a sick place because of Adam's sin

#2 - Death entered the world

- What comes along with sin is death
 - The Bible says "The wages of sin is death"
 - What you need to understand is "death" – is plural. "sin" is singular
- One sin results in many deaths

You see critics and skeptics say, oh the church, it is good that it is there because there needs to be some place for the weak minded to gather – you really believe in that Adam and Eve Story – really - give me one reason you believe that?

- I will give you two
 - In the world there is sin, and there is death
 - You criticize God for allowing sin and death, but the only realize you know it is not right is because in your heart God has placed what should be
- This world could have been without sin and death, but Romans says because Adam sin, you sin and die

You die, not because of your sin, but because of Adam's - How do I know that is true?

- one reason is babies in the womb die
 - Romans chapter 9:11 – says they have not done any good or evil, but yet they still die
- Another reason is Romans 5:13-14, people still died with out the Law

You see, verse 12, "thus death spread to all men, because of all sinned."

- implied in that word "all sinned" is all (with Adam) sinned

It a concept in the Bible known as Federal headship

- that you are affected completely by who is your head or your leader.

And ours is Adam - Now you might be thinking – that is not fair

- We see it all the time in Sports
 - Adam is our champion our representative
 - And He did better that we would
 - Grew up in a perfect environment
 - Did not have knowledge of sin
 - No worldly influence
 - No fleshly influence – only Satan
- He was the best we had and he blew it.
 - What makes us think we would do better

I am a Laker fan. Not a front runner. I admit, I first like them when Magic Johnson and Kareem. So It started that way, but I love them when Nic Van Excel and Valda were playing. Elden Campbell. And they lost big time, but they were my team and it hurt every time. They still are even though they have been beat – And not once did I think why did I not get put in. I could beat Kevin Durant, why didn't I have a shot.

- Its because I'm short, have no hops and general white man disease - They are my representative – I would not do any better

Well – you still might feel like that is fair in Sports

- But not when your talking about Spiritual things
 - It is not fair that I sin, die and am condemned because of what one man did.
 - Well, sorry you feel that way, but that is why it is with Federal Headship

However – don't walk out of the room

- because here is where it gets good!
 - Not only does chapter 5 teach the Truth of Adam
 - But it also covers...

#2 - The Truth about Christ. – Romans 5:15-19

- Just as you have been radically effected by what one man, Adam, did
 - So that is the reason you can be so affected by what another man did.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul calls Jesus - The Last Adam and the Second Man

- Not the 2nd Adam – for that would infer there might be more
 - Jesus accomplished what Adam never could
 - He is the Last Adam – there will never be one like Him
- But also the 2nd man – because 1,000s in fact millions will follow because of what He did.

There is such a contrast of what happened to us when Adam sinned and what happened to us when Christ was victorious –

3 things Paul points out

#1 - We now have Grace instead of Judgment

#2 - We are justified instead of condemned

#3 - We are no longer under the reign of death, but life

- and this is all because Christ is our head
 - Do you see Verse 19...
 - Because one sinned – we were all guilty
 - Because one obeyed – we receive innocence

Paul is making the point – it is “one act”

- used 11 times in this section – it is because of the one act

When speaking about Christ he uses the term “much more”

- You might think with Adam, God is being unfair
 - But really you are getting the great deal with Christ – for you choose to sin – you have never been righteous – Praise God it is based on one

Now you are victorious because of what Christ has done now

- Even though Christ has done all the work, and you enjoy the victory, by aligning yourself with Him
 - You also get the benefits – in heaven for ever
 - What a wonderful salvation we have
- The question is simply – where are you aligned
 - And we end with that question
 - Romans 5 teaches us the truth about Adam and it teaches us the truth about Christ
 - But chapter 5 also teaches #3

#3 - The truth about your allegiance – Romans 5:20-21

- What reign, what kingdom are you following?
 - You can't help being in Adam – you were born that way
 - But you can choose whether or not to stay there

When we trust Christ – when we align ourselves with Him

- we not only receive His forgiveness, but His life
 - with all the rewards and blessing
 - why – He is our head

We are at the end of the Courtroom

- the verdict is guilty – the reasons are multiplying
 - But there is a way out
 - And it is based on your allegiance

Stay aligned with Adam – live for yourself – and his one act of disobedience – amplified by your acts of disobedience – will result in death

- And for you the book of Romans ends here

Align yourself with Christ

- submit yourself to His headship
 - and you will be declared innocent, justified, because you come under His one act of obedience
 - you will receive Righteousness from God
- and you will have life
 - And the rest of our study in this book will be all about you.

How it all works together, How to tap into the blessing, what God desires of you now

- all next week!!!
 - But where are you going to be aligned???