

Studies in Romans

The Benefits of Justification (5:1-2)

Context

- **1:1-17 Introduction**
- **1:18-4:25 The problem and God's solution**
 - 1:18-3:20 The problem: God's wrath at our unrighteousness
 - 3:21-4:25 God's solution: justification by faith
- **5:1-8:39 What it means to be justified by faith**
 - 5:1-11 If we are justified, we will be saved from God's wrath
 - 5:12-21 Through His death, Christ has established a realm of righteousness, which will supersede the realm of sin and death (established by Adam) in which all mankind naturally lives.

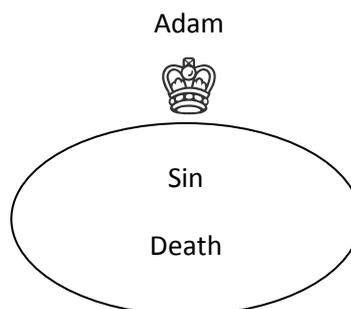
In this next section of Romans (**5:1ff**), Paul focuses on *what it means* to be justified by faith...

Take note of these diagrams, which will help explain **chapters 5-8** of Romans. The idea of two realms, Adam's and Christ's, is referred to specifically in **5:12-21**, but it can also be seen to undergird Paul's argument right to the end of **chapter 8**.

1. Paul's thesis—his main argument (5:1-11)

Paul says that if we have been justified by faith in Christ, we will definitely be saved from God's wrath in the future.

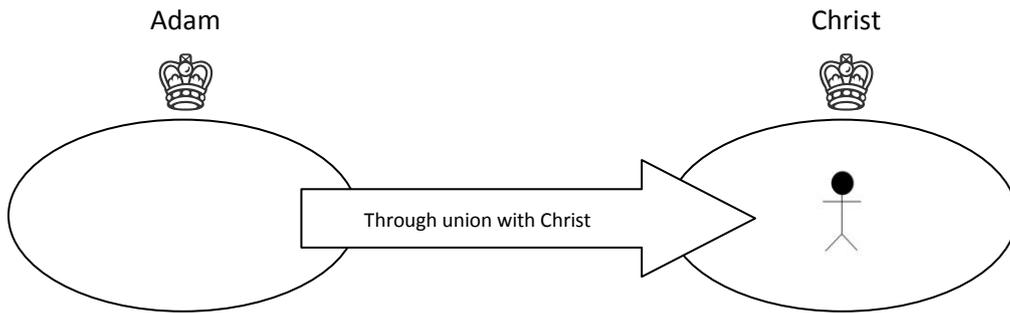
2. The realm of Adam (5:12-14)



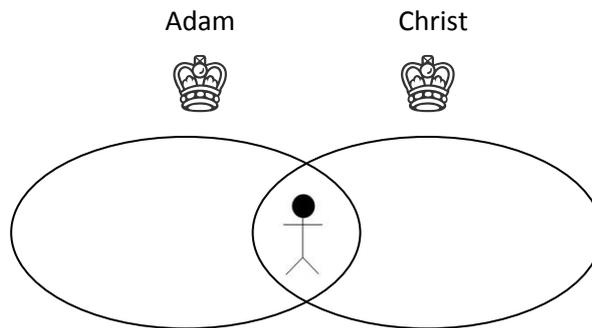
3. Christ establishes a new realm (5:15-21)



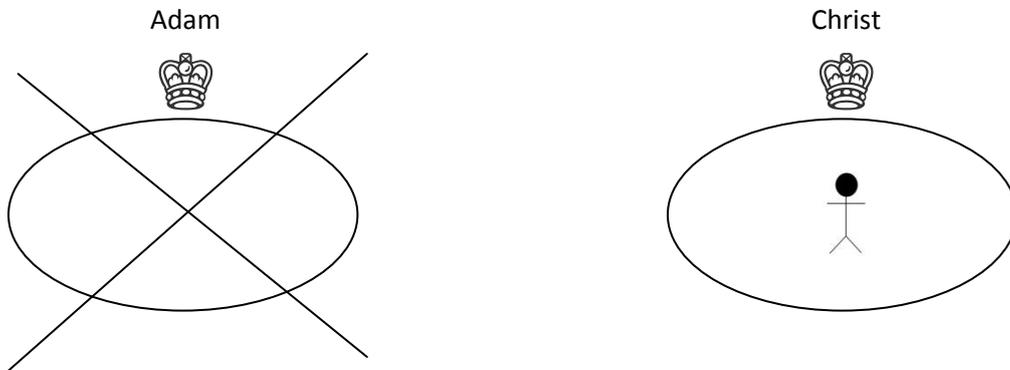
4. Christians are brought into the new realm of Christ (6:1-7:6)



5. Christians currently live in the “overlap” of the realms (7:7-8:17)



6. The final triumph of Christ’s realm (8:18-30)



7. Conclusion (8:31-39)

Paul proves his thesis in **5:1-11** by giving Christians full assurance that the final completion of God’s plan of salvation is unstoppable.

The current “unanswered questions”:

- If we are not justified by the Law, then what about the obligations to the law mentioned in the Old Testament?
- What about the fact that I still sin?
- If I’m justified by faith, may I just keep sinning?
- Is there now nothing unique about the Jews?

Read **Romans 5:1-11** noting transitional phrases, change of tone and other differences with the previous section.

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith...” What? What is the result?

1. _____ with God (5:1)

Review: what does it mean to be “justified”?

So the first thing is that because we have been justified, we have peace with God.

What does this mean?

2. We have access to God’s _____ (5:2a)

Conversion is not just having your sins forgiven. It’s more than that. Conversion to Jesus is a transfer between two realms—between two kingdoms. See **Colossians 1:13**.

Old realm → New realm.

And we *stand* there! *What might this mean?*

3. The _____ of God (5:2b)

What does the word “hope” mean when used in the Bible?

What is the glory of God? See also **Exodus 33**; **Matthew 17:2** and **Acts 7:55**. But remember **Romans 3:23**...

The danger of misplaced glory...

See also **John 5:44**; **John 17:24**; **Hebrews 12:23** and **1 Corinthians 15:43**.

This great day when we shall be “glorified” will be a corporate event. We shall all enter into our glory **together**. What a wonderful joint celebration it will be.

There is another aspect to this “glory.” There will also be a glorification of our bodies and all of creation. See **2 Pet. 2:12, 13** and **Romans 8:18-24**.

For further discussion

(Perhaps choose one or more to think about further or to discuss in a group)

- *What’s the best thing about being a Christian? When you are with your friends, what do you enthuse about regarding your faith?*
- *The world doesn’t think peace with God is anything to shout about. Why not?*
- *What would most people think “peace with God” is? What does Paul mean by the phrase?*
- *In the context of Romans, why is it remarkable that Paul can say that we have peace with God and that we stand in “grace”? What is our natural relationship with God like?*
- *The word translated as “rejoice” in this passage is the same word as that translated as “boast” in 3:27-31. Why is boasting permitted now, when it was excluded before?*