

1-4

ROMANS

GOD'S GOOD NEWS

BONUS STUDY #9

5:1-11



BONUS STUDY – ROMANS 5:1-11

We close off our series in Romans 1-4, with some ‘bonus content’ in Romans 5.

In Romans 1:18-4:25, Paul explains both the necessity of the gospel (no one is righteous, both Jew and Gentile are under God’s wrath) and the power of the gospel (we are declared righteous through faith in Christ Jesus).

In Romans 5:1-8:39, Paul moves on to explain the implications of the gospel – i.e., what it is to live as a person who is justified by faith. In this week’s ‘bonus’ passage, Paul explains that one of the main implications of being justified by faith is *assurance* – because of Christ’s atoning work on our behalf, we can be *confident* that we will be saved in the future. This assurance of hope underpins us, and informs our experience to suffering in the present.

Because we plan to circle back to Romans 5-8 in our next teaching series in Romans (God-willing in 2023!), these notes are deliberately brief and are focussed on reflecting on the term and applying its teaching to our lives. Nonetheless, because of our hard work in Romans 1-4, we wanted to take a moment this term to revel in some of the benefits secured for us by Christ in his gospel.

Merge Month

Our time in Romans 1-4 has reminded us of the great necessity, and the incredible opportunity there is, for the world around us to hear and believe God’s good news. Accordingly, by way of application of the series, we’ve carved out some time in this study to consider how we might start praying and planning for Merge Month.

The focus of Merge Month is to find opportunities to bring our friends and family into the orbit of our church family, so that they have the best opportunity of hearing the gospel and coming to faith in Christ. Accordingly, we’re encouraging everyone to prayerfully consider ways they might take some practical steps towards this through the month of October.

Our growth groups are a great place to start this process. Why not share about some friends or family members that you’d love the group to be praying for? Why not brainstorm some ways that you could partner with each other in seeing each other’s friends come closer to the orbit of God’s people so that they have better opportunities to hear and consider the gospel? Even if you can’t think of a way forward with your own friends and family, you can enlist the group to start praying, and can yourself support another member with their own friends and family.

For some Merge Month inspiration, catch up on our online book club at tiny.cc/timetoread (links to all four episodes are in the video description).

You can also give us your feedback on Book Club at tiny.cc/bookclubfeedback

We would love to gauge how we’ve gone across the parish during Merge Month. We’d also love to be praying as a leadership team, and following up on how things have gone. To help us toward that end, you can log your ‘Merge Event’ at tiny.cc/mergemonth

GETTING STARTED

1. What have you learned, rediscovered, or been reminded of, regarding *God's good news* this term?
2. Do you have any lingering questions from our time in Romans 1-4? If so, what are they?
3. What are some things that you want to put into practise in your life in light of our time in Romans 1-4?

INTO THE TEXT

Read Romans 5:1-11

4. In your own words, describe what it is to be 'justified' through faith?
5. Having been justified through faith, what is it that Paul wants the church to be certain of in this passage?
6. What grounds do we have for such certainty?
7. What does it mean to '*glory in our sufferings*' (v 3),¹ and how does *hope* help us actually do this?

TAKEAWAY

8. **Merge Month.** If you haven't done so already, read the overview notes to this study, then as a group, choose one (or more) of the following options:
 - a. Share of a friend or family member that you would love the group to be ongoingly praying for, that they might come to share your faith in Jesus.
 - b. Brainstorm one '*merge event*' that you might be able to do as a group.
 - c. Brainstorm ideas for smaller scale (2-4 people) '*merge events.*'
 - d. Share previous experiences of when you've been able to effectively '*merge worlds.*'
9. Conclude the time in prayer thanking God for the peace we now have with him through Christ, and for the certainty we hold regarding eternal life. You may even like to sing or listen to '*In Christ Alone*' (lyrics below) as you do so.

¹ Reading different English translations of verse 3 will help give you a sense of the meaning of the original Greek word.

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
this cornerstone, this solid ground
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love,
what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled,
when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ Alone
Who took on flesh
fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones He came to save

'till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand,
'till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand,
'till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!