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# Peace from Good News

## PEACE AND JOY WITH GOD

### CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

*monthly (interim) schedule*

\*\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month \*\*\*

TUESDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> OF JUNE

12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Studies are held the *first* Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon, in accord with the Public Service Commission devotional at 9:55am (in hearing room number 110 at 244 Washington Street, Atlanta). The *monthly* Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. We are currently studying the book of Romans, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I am here to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as an evidence of my desire to be serving you. – Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

## Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Study

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Tuesday, 2 June 2015

### Romans 5 – “Peace from Good News”

Emperor Augustus learned that a Roman gentleman, despite an oppressive and significant burden of debt, slept quietly and with ease. Augustus desired to purchase the bed wherewith the gentleman lodged, remarking that it must be wonderful for a man so intensely involved to obtain sleep upon it. Needless to remark, it was a worthless purchase for the Roman Emperor.

If you were to think with regard to your daily indebtedness to God, could you lie down to rest *or* sleep in peace? Romans 5 introduces a revolutionary statement for those whose Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ: “we have peace with God.” Peace with God is what the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ produces in the lives of those who believe the good news (gospel) of salvation. The believer has the peace to render the tribute of praise to God, and so discharge the extent of indebtedness to worship Him [James Comper Bray, *The Biblical Museum*, 15 vols. (London: Elliot Stock, 1876-87) 4:43].

(Rom 5:1-11) If the book of Romans ended with chapter 4, one could know with certainty that salvation is by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Moreover, chapters 1–4 of Romans would be sufficient to provide enough revelation necessary to share the gospel (“good news”) with others. The foundation of the gospel message is complete by the time we reach Romans 5:1. “Therefore” (as verse 1 begins), and as it is subsequent to the didactic and theological portion of the Epistle, the emphasis is now upon the “practical” aspect of the gospel.

*Philippians 4:7 – And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

“Having been justified by faith,” the believer is certain that God will not forsake him or her. [Justification is a legal (forensic) term with regard to acquittal; it refers to God’s action whereby He makes human beings, who are sinners and worthy of condemnation, to be made acceptable before a God who is holy and righteous.] The Lord God will complete the work that He has begun, which will culminate ultimately in glorification (cf. Rom 8:28-30). For this reason, the believer is able – even presently – to rejoice “in hope of the glory of God” (5:2).

The certainty of being saved “by faith” is evident in two truths that are developed within Romans 5. The first truth is that “tribulations” are designed to mature – not weaken – one’s faith in God (vv. 1-11). The second truth is that the believer is united inseparably to Jesus Christ just as he/she was unified formerly to Adam (5:12-21).

Romans 5 develops understanding with regard to the certainty of God’s righteousness. Whereas the prior chapter explained the basis and means of justification, Romans 5 explains the benefits of being justified by faith. Additionally, chapter 5 of Romans mentions that the work of Christ Jesus results in reconciliation with God, and thus believers may be confident that the Lord will not forsake them in the day of his wrath.

The threefold benefits of being justified by faith include (vv. 1-2): (1) peace; (2) grace; and, (3) glory. “Peace with God” is an instant effect of justification, and indicates a settled state that exists between the believer and God, based upon the reality of Christ’s atoning work (v. 10; 8:7; cf. Col 1:21-22). Although peace with God is an objective fact – not based upon personal feelings – this reality can and should affect the believer emotionally (cf. Phil 4:7).



## Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays (monthly) @ 12 Noon - 12:45 pm, 123 CAP  
lunch provided from sponsorship by Georgia Transmission



Enhancing Trust

The continuing effect of justification is access to the grace of God (1 Tim 2:5; Heb 4:15-16). The perfect tense of the Greek is used – “we have” (*eschēkamen*) and “stand” (*estēkamen*) – and this verb form indicates a past event with continuing results. God never abandons the believer since his grace, which inaugurates a saving relationship, continues to sustain the Christian in his/her life.

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**THE LORD GOD WILL COMPLETE THE WORK THAT HE HAS BEGUN. . . . FOR THIS REASON, THE BELIEVER IS ABLE . . . TO REJOICE “IN HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD” . . . .**

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The ultimate benefit of justification is the “hope of the glory of God,” which obviously is anticipatory. As a result of the justified state, the believer joyfully anticipates a future hope in heaven. The Greek word (*elpidi*) translated “hope” is the expectation of what is certain as opposed to the uncertain. The believer’s future is certain!

The theme of verses 3-11 is rejoicing. Verse 2 indicates that Christians are able to rejoice (exult) in God’s future provision, namely, the hope of sharing his glory. Verse 3 reveals that the believer can rejoice when evaluating present circumstances because God has a purpose for them, even if and when those situations involve sufferings or tribulations. Tribulations cannot destroy the believer’s faith (vv. 3-5a), which is proved by the nature of God’s love (vv. 5b-11).

## LIFE WITH GOD, DEATH THROUGH ADAM

(Rom 5:12-21) Romans 5:12-21 conveys the truth that Adam and Christ are representative men, with each at the head of two groups of people. Adam is head of all condemned sinners, and Christ of “those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness.” The actions of both Adam and Christ affect all whom they represent.

The usage of the phrase “one man” throughout Romans 5, which describes both Adam and Christ, emphasizes the individual responsibility that each man possessed as the head of those whom they represent. Adam exercised his responsibility by introducing “death through sin” into the world, which spread to all humanity, so that “all sinned” (v. 12; 6:23; cf. Gen 2:17; 1 Cor 15:45).

How should one understand the statement, “death spread to all man, because all sinned?” One interpretation is that all humanity dies as a result of our sins (i.e. we all imitate Adam by sinning, and consequently, we die). The problem with this explanation is that Scripture emphasizes that all humanity suffers from Adam’s sin, not one’s own (cf. vv. 15-19). Moreover, imitating Christ’s obedience and doing good works do not justify one; rather, one is saved because the Lord’s righteousness is credited through faith. Similarly, condemnation results from the crediting of Adam’s sin. [Many examples from everyday life are sufficient to demonstrate how one person can be held responsible for the actions of another.]

Although there are parallels between Adam and Christ (vv. 12-14), the two men are also different (vv. 15-19). The difference is not that one man is representative, and the other is not; rather, the disparity is between what each man transmits to others through his actions: death and condemnation for one, and life and justification from Christ Jesus. Adam’s disobedience constituted many sinners, whereas Christ’s obedience will make many righteous.

Not only did Christ reverse the effects of Adam’s disobedience, but also He brought “the abundance of grace.” “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (v. 20b). God’s grace more than counterbalances the increase of sin. The work of Christ is, therefore, far greater than the act of Adam. Whereas the sin of Adam brought condemnation, Christ’s “gift of righteousness” brought justification.

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### [CHRIST] BROUGHT “THE ABUNDANCE OF GRACE.”

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The good news for those in Christ is that the old monarch, sin, has been toppled from the throne. Now, as a result of the work of Christ Jesus, a new monarch, grace, abounds to “reign through righteousness to eternal life” (v. 21). Although everyone is under condemnation through Adam who made sinners, “many” can be justified (made righteous) by trusting the work of Christ to grant peace with God, therein resulting in grace and glory.

First Corinthians 15:45 – *So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

The truth that righteousness is a “free gift” and that it is received indicates the fact that being made righteous (justified) is judicial (as opposed to being ethical, and thus based upon good behavior). Those who are “justified by faith” have been credited with the righteousness of Christ, who accomplished salvation on their behalf. *Nothing is greater than the grace of God!*

*Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the nobility to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.*

### About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastors-missionaries who teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for legislators, lobbyists, and staff members. The Bible studies are hand-distributed to each legislative office, emailed, and made available throughout the Capitol community. Capitol Commission is a ministry of the church seeking to proclaim the gospel message, and to help believers mature through verse-by-verse Bible teaching. In the Bible, we see God’s love for the world, especially those who have been placed in authority. This is the foundation for our ministry to you.

The church is instructed to submit and to honor government leaders (Rom 13:1-7), and to pray for their eternal salvation (1 Tim 2:1-4). The desire of Capitol Commission is to witness God transform the hearts and lives of elected officials, lobbyists, and staff members. We apply this mandate to four primary areas of discipleship: (1) *evangelize* those who have not known saving faith in Jesus Christ; (2) *establish* those who desire to grow in their faith and knowledge of Scripture; (3) *equip* those called to spiritual leadership; and, (4) *encourage* churches to participate with us in ministry.

Bible study luncheon sponsored by:



**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION (INTERIM) BIBLE STUDY:**  
Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of July @ 12 Noon in 123 CAP  
(always the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, during interim)