

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #7: Reasons to Rejoice

INTRODUCTION

Think of one of your most joyful moments in the past few months. What was the reason for that joy?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 5

Note: In New Testament times, “suffering” was the normal and expected lot of Christians. Acts 14:22 Thus, suffering was seen as a sign of true Christianity. 2 Ths 1:4-5 “Perseverance” implied fortitude and endurance. It was actively overcoming a misfortune, not just passive acceptance. ¹

1. How has faith in Jesus Christ changed our relationship with God? vv. 1-2; 10
2. What is “peace with God?” **Lk 2:14** Who is *not* God’s enemy? **Eph 2:16-19**
3. Who initiated the peace treaty? What did it cost? What a contrast to have God as Father instead of Judge!
4. It’s easy to understand why Jesus would die for “nice, God-honoring” people. But why would He die for “God-dishonoring, enemies of the cross?” Rom 5:8, 10; **1 Pet 3:18**
5. Is the peace with God something in the future (when we die) or now? **Rom 8:7** Would you say the peace is more subjective (feeling) or objective (a fact)? What difference does it make?
6. Why do Christians suffer? **James 1:2-4** Aren’t we supposed to be “healthy, wealthy & wise”?
7. How does suffering for Christ’s sake produce the character changes mentioned in verses 3-4?
8. How do verses 9-10 assure us that God accepts us completely in Christ?
9. How has the sin of Adam affected his descendants? Vv 12-14
10. How are Adam and Christ compared? Vv 15-19; **1 Cor 15:45-47**
11. What is “the gift”? Vv 15-17 How is it received?

APPLICATION

Thank God for the greeting of Romans 1:7 (if you are a saint).

After the famous missionary David Livingstone had spent several years among the Zulus of South Africa, he went with his wife and young child into the interior to minister. When he returned, he discovered that an enemy tribe had attacked the Zulus, killed many of the people, and taken the chief’s son captive. The Zulu chief did not want to make war with the other tribe, but he poignantly asked Dr. Livingstone, “How can I be at peace with them while they hold my son prisoner?”

Commenting on that story, Donald Grey Barnhouse wrote, “If this attitude is true in the heart of a savage chief, how much more is it true of God the Father toward those who trample under foot His Son, who count the blood of the covenant wherewith they were set apart as an unholy thing, and who continue to despise the Spirit of grace (Heb. 10:29)?” (God’s River: Romans 5:1–11 [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959], p. 26). ²

¹ Serendipity Inductive Bible Study, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 2001, c 2001 p. 1850

² MacArthur, John: *Romans*. Chicago : Moody Press, 1996, c1991, c1994, S. 273