

Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome – Part 2 (Winter 54/55)

Romans 5–8

Peace and Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

5:1 Therefore, *because we* have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 2 through whom also we have *obtained* access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God.
 3 And not only *this*, but we also boast in our afflictions, *because we* know that affliction produces patient endurance,
 4 and patient endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope,
 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
 6 For *while* we were still helpless, yet at the proper time Christ died for the ungodly.
 7 For only rarely will someone die on behalf of a righteous person (for on behalf of a good person possibly someone might even dare to die),
 8 but God demonstrates his own love for us, *in* that *while* we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 9 Therefore, by much more, *because we* have been declared righteous now by his blood, we will be saved through him from the wrath.
 10 For if, *while we* were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, by much more, having been reconciled, we will be saved by his life.
 11 And not only *this*, but also *we are* boasting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Adam's Sin Contrasted With God's Gracious Gift

12 Because of this, just as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned.
 13 For until the law, sin was in the world, but sin is not charged to one's account *when there* is no law.
 14 But death reigned from Adam until Moses even over those who did not sin in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who is to come.
 15 But the gift is not like the trespass, for if by the trespass of the one, the many died, by much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, multiply to the many.
 16 And the gift *is* not as through the one who sinned, for on the one hand, judgment from the one *sin led* to condemnation, but the gift, from many trespasses, *led* to justification.
 17 For if by the trespass of the one *man*, death reigned through the one *man*, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.
 18 Consequently therefore, as through one trespass *came* condemnation to all people, so also through one righteous deed *came* justification of life to all people.
 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man, the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.
 20 Now the law came in as a side issue, in order that the trespass could increase, but where sin increased, grace was present in greater abundance,
 21 so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul Explains Who We Are In Christ

6:1 What therefore shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, in order that grace may increase?
 2 May it never be! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
 3 Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
 4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we may live a new way of life.
 5 For if we have become identified with *him* in the likeness of his death, certainly also we will be *identified with him in the likeness of his* resurrection,
 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified together with *him*, in order that the body of sin may be done away with, *that* we may no longer be enslaved to sin.
 7 For the one who has died has been freed from sin.
 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him,
 9 knowing that Christ, *because he* has been raised from the dead, is going to die no more, death no longer being master over him.
 10 For that *death* he died, he died to sin once and never again, but that *life* he lives, he lives to God.

Paul Exhorts Us to Live Out in Practice What is True of Us in Spirit

11 So also you, consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that *you* obey its desires,
13 and do not present your members to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who are alive from the dead, and your members to God *as* instruments of righteousness.
14 For sin will not be master over you, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Illustration of Master and Slave—We are the Slave of Whatever We Obey

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!
16 Do you not know that to whomever you present yourselves *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves to whomever you obey, whether sin, *leading* to death, or obedience, *leading* to righteousness?
17 But thanks *be* to God that you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted,
18 and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.
19 (I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh.) For just as you presented your members *as* slaves to immorality and lawlessness, *leading* to lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves to righteousness, *leading* to sanctification.
20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with respect to righteousness.
21 Therefore what sort of fruit did you have then, about which you are now ashamed? For the end of those *things is* death.
22 But now, having been set free from sin and having been enslaved to God, you have your fruit *leading* to sanctification, and its end *is* eternal life.
23 For the compensation due sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Illustration of Husband and Wife—We are Released from the Law by Our Death in Christ

7:1 Or do you not know, brothers (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law is master of a person for as long a time *as* he lives?
2 For the married woman is bound by law to *her* husband while he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of the husband.
3 Therefore as a result, if she belongs to another man *while* her husband is living, she will be called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress *if she* belongs to another man.
4 So then, my brothers, you also were brought to death with respect to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to the one who was raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.
5 For when we were in the flesh, sinful desires were working through the law in our members, to bear fruit for death.
6 But now we have been released from the law, *because we have died to that* by which we were bound, so that we may serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter *of the law*.

The Nature of the Relationship Between the Law and Sin (as seen in Paul's life prior to conversion)

7 What then shall we say? *Is* the law sin? May it never be! But I would not have known sin except through the law, for I would not have known covetousness if the law had not said, "Do not covet." [[Exod 20:17](#)]
8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all *kinds of* covetousness. For apart from the law, sin *is* dead.
9 And I was alive once, apart from the law, but *when* the commandment came, sin sprang to life
10 and I died, and this commandment which *was to lead to* life was found with respect to me to *lead to* death.
11 For sin, seizing the opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed *me*.
12 So then, the law *is* holy, and the commandment *is* holy and righteous and good.
13 Therefore, *did that which is* good become death to me? May it never be! Rather *it was* sin, in order that it might be recognized *as* sin, producing death through *what is* good for me, in order that sin might become sinful to an extraordinary degree through the commandment.

The Law's Inability to Deliver from the Bondage of Sin (as seen in Paul's life prior to conversion)

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold into slavery to sin.
15 For what I am doing I do not understand, because what I want *to do*, this I do not practice, but what I hate, this I do.
16 But if what I do not want *to do*, this I do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.
17 But now I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that lives in me.
18 For I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my flesh. For the willing is present in me, but the doing *of* the good *is* not.
19 For the good that I want *to do*, I do not do, but the evil that I do not want *to do*, this I do.
20 But if what I do not want *to do*, this I am doing, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that lives in me.
21 Consequently, I find the principle with me, the one who wants to do good, that evil is present with me.
22 For I joyfully agree with the law of God in my inner person,
23 but I observe another law in my members, at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that exists in

my members.

24 Wretched man *that I am!* Who will rescue me from this body of death?

25 Thanks *be* to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself with my mind am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh *I am enslaved* to the law of sin.

Life in the Spirit (union with Christ) Contrasted With Life in the Flesh

8:1 Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation for those *who are* in Christ Jesus.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what *was* impossible for the law, in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did*. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

4 in order that the requirement of the law would be fulfilled in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 For those who are *living* according to the flesh are intent on the things of the flesh, but those *who are living* according to the Spirit *are intent on* the things of the Spirit.

6 For the mindset of the flesh *is* death, but the mindset of the Spirit *is* life and peace,

7 because the mindset of the flesh *is* enmity toward God, for *it is* not subjected to the law of God, for *it is* not able *to do so*,

8 and those who are in the flesh are not able to please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, this person does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

11 And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also make alive your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.

12 So then, brothers, we are obligated not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Our Adoption as Sons of God

14 For all those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery *leading* to fear again, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

16 The Spirit himself confirms to our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer together *with him* so that we may also be glorified together *with him*.

Present Suffering and Future Glory

18 For I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory that is about to be revealed to us.

19 For the eagerly expecting creation awaits eagerly the revelation of the sons of God.

20 For the creation has been subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of the one who subjected *it*, in hope

21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its servility to decay, into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans together and suffers agony together until now.

23 Not only *this*, but we ourselves also, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves *while we await* eagerly *our* adoption, the redemption of our body.

24 For in hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we await *it* eagerly with patient endurance.

26 And likewise also, the Spirit helps *us* in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as one ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes *for us with* unexpressed groanings.

27 And the one who searches our hearts knows what the mindset of the Spirit *is*, because he intercedes on behalf of the saints according to *the will of* God.

28 And we know that all *things* work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to *his* purpose,

29 because *those* whom he foreknew, he also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, so that he should be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And *those* whom he predestined, these *he* also called, and *those* whom he called, these *he* also justified, and *those* whom he justified, these *he* also glorified.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

31 What then shall we say about these *things*? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 Indeed, *he* who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, together with him, freely give us all *things*?

33 Who will bring charges against God’s elect? God *is* the one who justifies.

34 Who *is* the one who condemns? Christ *is* the one who died, and more than that, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? *Will* affliction or distress or persecution or hunger or lack of sufficient clothing or danger or the sword?

36 Just as it is written,

“On account of you we are being put to death the whole day *long*;
we are considered as sheep for slaughter.” [[Ps 44:22](#)]

37 *No*, but in all these *things* we prevail completely through the one who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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