

## **Our Standing in Grace – No Condemnation**

The last time we were together, we began to look at the gospel of God concerning His son as written in the Book of Romans by the Apostle Paul. That was recorded in the session titled “Our Standing in Grace” which is on the website. Today, I would like to continue our looking at that gospel.

### **Romans 1:1 – 4**

Paul had been called and separated to this gospel. Verse 2 is a parenthetical phrase, which is a type of figure of speech. While there are different varieties of parentheses, in general they are additions to the context by way of explanation. Generally, one can read, skipping over the parenthesis and the context will still make sense. I want to make this point here because we will be encountering some additional parentheses as we go on this morning. This gospel is what Paul preached and what had been promised by the prophets.

### **Romans 1:15 – 17**

This gospel (good news) revealed the righteousness of God from faith to faith. That is what we began to see in “Our Standing in Grace”. The believing that Jesus Christ did in carrying out God’s plan of redemption made available the righteousness of God to all who would believe. This righteousness was obtained by believing and not by any actions or works of the individual. But the righteousness of God is not the only thing that is revealed.

### **Romans 1:18**

The wrath of God is also revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. Now Paul in his epistles does not go into detail about

this wrath of God. There are other sections of God's Word that will do that. But it is interesting to note that the wrath of God is mentioned in each of the three doctrinal epistles (Romans, Ephesians and Thessalonians) that were written by Paul.

### **Romans 2:3 – 11**

### **Romans 3:9 – 12, 19b**

The opening chapters of Romans paint a bleak picture regarding the state of mankind. It's very important to note that these chapters deal with the Jew and the Gentile (but not the Church). All of mankind is shown to be under sin, with none righteous, none that can do good and all the world guilty.

### **Romans 3:22 – 26**

That is when we see the good news concerning His son. Because of the believing that Jesus Christ did in carrying out God's will, righteousness is imputed to all (Jew and Gentile) who believe.

### **Romans 5:1, 2**

Because of what Jesus Christ accomplished, which we obtain by believing, we are no longer enemies of God, no longer at odds with Him. Rather, we have peace with God and access by believing into our standing in grace. This is where we stopped previously, but now we go on.

### **Romans 5:3 – 5**

This is the gift of holy spirit. Spirit is what was lost way back in Genesis 3. That gift is called various things in God's Word. It is incorruptible seed, the earnest of our inheritance, it is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It makes us partakers of the divine nature. It is eternal life.

### **Romans 5:6 – 9**

In Christ, we are saved from the wrath to come. That wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness is not our future.

### **Romans 5:10 – 12**

Sin entered the world and with it all the consequences of sin. Death, sickness (which is death in part or in whole) all entered the world and became a part of the landscape in which we live.

### **Romans 5:13 – 17**

Beginning in verse 13, we see another parenthetical phrase. This one goes through verse 17. This parenthesis gives additional explanation on how sin nature (also called the old man) and the consequences of sin came to have such a reign. We also see that the grace of God brought by Jesus Christ is abundantly greater than sin and its effects. What God accomplished in Christ is far bigger and more powerful than what the adversary accomplished in Adam.

### **Romans 5:18 – 21**

Now we come to chapters 6 and 7. These chapters are not marked by parentheses, but they could be. We have seen in chapter 5 that because of what God did in Christ, we have been reconciled to God and we have received holy spirit. By our believing in what God did in Christ, we have been made partakers of the divine nature. But that holy spirit, that eternal life spirit, that gift freely given and received is in a body that is still mortal and corruptible. Sin, that old nature, still works through the flesh. We must learn how to reckon the old nature dead and learn how to yield ourselves to God. That is what these two chapters are all about. When you read them, you will see that this topic of the two natures is handled by questions. There are 4 questions posed, 4 answers and 4 further explanations given. We are not going to deal with these

chapters today – but I do want to show you the 4 questions, answers and further explanations.

**Romans 6:1, 2a.** This is the first question and answer. Further explanation is given in Romans 6:2b – 14.

**Romans 6:15.** This is the second question and answer. Further explanation is given in Romans 6:16 – 7:6.

**Romans 7:7a.** This is the third question and answer. Further explanation is given in Romans 7:7b – 12.

**Romans 7:13a.** This is the fourth question and answer. Further explanation is given in Romans 7:13b – 23.

**Romans 7:24, 25.** These two chapters close with this cry of anguish. This cry also looks ahead to **Romans 8:23**.

So, having seen the parenthesis in chapter 5 and having seen that chapters 6 and 7 are also parenthetical, let's go back to verse 12 of chapter 5 and read, skipping over the parentheses.

**Romans 5:12**

**Romans 5:18 – 21**

**Romans 8:1 – 4**

The last half of verse 1 is not supported by the Greek or Aramaic texts and should be deleted. There is no condemnation or wrath in the future for the believer. Having been made the righteousness of God and given the gift of holy spirit, a believer now has the ability to live a completely new life. And that is where chapter 8 leads us. But that will be another day. This is as far as we go this morning.