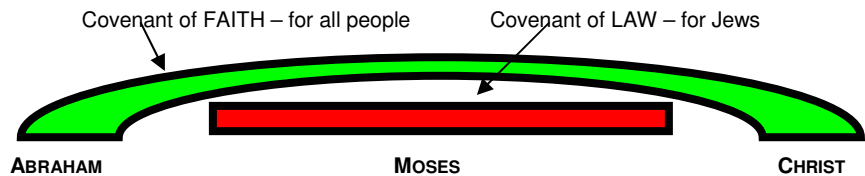


## **PART 5: WAR & PEACE**

### **INTRODUCTION – Getting Back To The New Covenant**



Genesis 15:5-6; Deuteronomy 6:25

### **Look To The Book**

**Romans 5**

#### **A QUICK SUMMARY...**

1. Paul has established (and will continue to herald) that *justification* – being declared righteous, or right with God... that verdict that people look forward to on Judgement Day – has been pulled into the present and offered to us *now* through Jesus. In light of this, our only reasonable response is to *trust* (or, “have faith in”) God and accept his gift. This response of trust makes us all, Jew and Gentile, the spiritual descendants of Abraham, whose covenant with God was based on the same simple trust.
2. Now Paul highlights the results of this experience of being justified [5:1-12], something better than the *Pax Romana* could ever offer. We have real (objective) peace between us and God.
3. Christians can boast, but not in anything they have accomplished. Instead, we “boast” (exult, rejoice, celebrate, take pride) in our assurance of the future [5:2-5].
4. We can also be proud of our current hardships, knowing that suffering in this life is not a sign of God’s wrath (see 1:18-32), but rather of our willingness not to thoughtlessly go with the flow of the world system.
5. God assures us of this in two ways: a) *subjectively*, through his Spirit (5:5), and b) *objectively*, through his Son [5:6-8].
6. Because we *are* justified, and *are* reconciled, we *will be* saved [5:1, 9-10].
7. God does not just declare us righteous (*justification*), but he then reaches out to us in friendship (*reconciliation*) [5:10-11].
8. Paul then turns his attention to how we became estranged to God in the first place (through Adam’s sin) and how Jesus helps reconnect us with our Creator [5:13-21]. (On the idea of the Hebrew understanding of corporate solidarity, see **Joshua 7**.)
9. Adam was not just a sinner (falling short of the ideal), he was a “transgressor” (breaking a specific command) [5:14-15]. When Adam fell, he took us with him.
10. Jesus is the mirror image of Adam, the undoing of the effects of the fall [5:14-19].
11. Sin and death used to reign, but now God wants US to reign [5:17].
12. Giving Adam a “law” did not help him, and giving Israel the Law produced even worse consequences [5:20]. God’s love will do what his Law could not.

### **So What?**

#### **TAKE OUT #1:**

Admitting you’ve got a \_\_\_\_\_ is the first step toward healing.

#### **TAKE OUT #2:**

God desires radical \_\_\_\_\_ with us. Whenever God has a job to do, his first question is “Who is willing to do this with me?”  
5:12, 17; Daniel 7:27

#### **TAKE OUT #3:**

The Gospel offers people the reverse of \_\_\_\_\_. “Enlightenment” comes first – lifestyle follows. 5:1; John 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 5:9

#### **TAKE OUT #4:**

When people are aware of their need and Good News is brought to them, the proclamation \_\_\_\_ the invitation. (Persuasion is unnecessary.)

### **CONCLUSION – The Security Of Being Loved**

Romans 5:6-8

### **HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...**

#### **WARMING UP & REVIEW...**

1. Discuss the implications of this quote by Craig C. Hill: *Moses was not the answer to Adam. The law did not provide a way out of the human dilemma; quite to the contrary, it made an already bad situation worse.*
2. Use your notes to review this week’s message. As you go, talk about what challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you.

#### **LOOK TO THE BOOK...**

3. Review our key text (**Romans 5**). a) What verse or thought stands out to you the most? Why? b) Using selected verses from 5:1-11 only, explain how the message of Jesus is different than religion. (If you can remember waaay back to last week, use Abraham as an example in your explanation.) c) How do you think Christ’s example of dying for us while we were still sinners (5:8) should impact our relationships with other people? d) What lessons can you mine out of 5:17? e) Have you ever felt like no one loves you? ... How do you think that makes God feel?
4. Let’s have a debate! Divide into two “teams” to debate the topic of universalism. (For more fun, divide randomly, not according to preference or current persuasion.) The premise is: *The Bible teaches the possibility that all people will eventually be saved through Jesus.* The team for the *affirmative* should focus on these Scriptures – **Romans 5:15-19; 11:32; 1 Corinthians 15:21-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Ephesians 1:9-10; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:20; 1 John 2:2; Revelation 7:9.** The team for the *negative* should focus on these Scriptures – **Romans 5:17; 2:5-8; 10:13-14; Matthew 7:13-14; John 3:16, 36.** Each team can argue from any other Scriptures they wish, but they must be referenced, not “It says somewhere in the Bible that...”. Take 10 minutes to prepare, then come out fighting!... in a peaceful way, of course.

#### **SO WHAT?...**

5. Review TAKE OUTS #2 & #4. a) How are you actively partnering with God to let people know about the Good News of the Gospel? b) What kinds of things hold you back from freely sharing this message with more people? c) After reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, pray for each other regarding your role as ambassadors, representatives of Christ.

**HOMEWORK...** Read ahead. What questions does **Romans 6** raise for you?

*Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE*