

LIFE WITH

**GOD**

STUDIES IN ROMANS 5-8

In this second instalment of **Romans** studies we discover the good news about Jesus just keeps coming. Not only has Jesus enabled us to be justified by God's grace (Romans 1-4) but Christ's death and resurrection have also triggered a whole cascade of other blessings as well.

As with any Bible study, these are best done in advance when doing them in a group context.

## Romans 5

*A judge's verdict can turn your whole life upside down. But it's not so much the verdict itself that matters as the consequences which follow. So far in Romans Paul has spent considerable time explaining that God has declared us innocent (ie justified) even though we're guilty of sin. In Romans 5 Paul now starts to expand on the consequences of the Judge of all the universe granting us an innocent verdict. In this study, Paul has two special consequences in mind.*

### **Consequence #1 - Read Romans 5:1-11**

1) What do we now have because of our justification through faith? (v1-2)

2) What role has Jesus played in this? (v1-2)

3) Because we have peace with God what can we now look forward to? (v2)

4) How should this influence the way we think about the tough times of life? (v3-6)

5) When did God demonstrate his love for us? Why is this important to what Paul is saying in verse 5?

## **Consequence #2 - Read Romans 5:12-21**

7) These verses describe two big categories of humanity. One is living under the influence of Adam, the other is living under the influence of Jesus. Read again the verses listed below and make a list of all the things that are different between the two groups of people.

The influence of Adam

The influence of Christ

v12-14

v15

v16

v17

v18

v19

8) Because we've been justified by God we have moved from being under the influence of Adam to being under the influence of Jesus. What role did God's grace have in this? (20-21)

### **Think it over**

- When is it hard to believe that God loves us? Does anything in this chapter help us to deal with those times?
- Did you notice the number of times rejoicing is mentioned in this section (v2,3,11)? What are specific things we can do to rejoice even in difficult situations?
- Because we've been justified we are now at peace with God and we don't have to be scared of our eternal future. How should this reflect in our priorities? the things we get anxious over?

## Romans 6

*Our natural instinct is to think that if we've been given something for nothing then it probably isn't worth having. Is that the same with sin? We are saved from our sin for free! We contribute nothing except our sin! So perhaps sin isn't really all that important? Perhaps sin doesn't matter much after all and so we don't have to be all that worried about it? These are the issues which Paul now addresses in Romans. In particular he wants to answer two main questions regarding sin.*

### **Question 1: Does grace encourage sin?**

#### **Read Romans 6:1-14**

1) In verses 1-4 Paul uses the term "baptism" as a way of referring to our solidarity with Jesus. According to these verses what experiences have we shared in with Jesus?

2) What implications do these shared experiences have regarding sin in our lives? v5-10

3) Verse 11 is a nice little summary of this section. Try and write it out in your own words.

4) What are some practical ways that we can "not offer the parts of our body to sin as instruments of wickedness"?

### **Question 2: Does grace make sin irrelevant?**

#### **Read Romans 6:15-23**

5) What were we slaves of? v16-17, 19-20

6) What was the result of this slavery? v21

7) What are we now slaves to? v17-18,

8) What are the benefits of this slavery? v22

**Think it over**

- Debbie has called herself a Christian ever since she ticked the box at a craft outreach event. She says she believes in Jesus but her lifestyle reflects she has no real desire to obey Jesus. As her friend, what would you say to her? What do you think she has misunderstood about being a Christian?
  
- Frank is depressed about his christian life. He tries so hard but there are a couple of sins he just can't get under control. Sometimes he doubts whether he's even really a christian. He's rung you up to come around and chat about it. What are you going to say to him?
  
- What are practical ways your small group can help you be set free from sin?
  
- Because of this passage what would be a specific thing to do this week?

## Romans 7

*In our last study we discovered the amazing news that being united with Christ has broken our slavery to sin. We are now dead to sin in Christ. However some Israelites thought they didn't need Jesus because they had the Old Testament law to help them be obedient. Paul disagrees. The Old Testament law should actually help them realise all the more they need Jesus!*

### **Read Romans 7:1-6**

1) What does death do to a marriage? v1-3

2) In what sense have we died to the law (ie the Old Testament law)? v4

3) What implications does this have to our attitude to sin? v5-6

### **Read Romans 7:7-23**

4) What do our sinful passions do with Gods commandments? (v8-11)

5) What do you think Paul means by the statement, "For apart from law, sin is law"? (v8)

6) What internal struggle does the law set off inside us? (v14-23)

**Read Romans 7:24-25**

7) Why is it actually a good thing that the law sets up this internal struggle within us? (v13, 24)

**Think it over**

- Have you found this chapter to be mainly a challenge or a comfort? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In what ways has this chapter helped you to appreciate Jesus all the more?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How does this chapter help us read and apply the Old Testament to our lives as New Testament Christians?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Tom is a Christian who's been cheating on his tax return for years. Tom isn't worried because he says the Spirit told him to do it so he'd have more money to give to gospel ministries. Is Tom right or not? Why?



## Romans 8

*Over the last few chapters Paul has been explaining some of the amazing consequences of being justified by faith. Amongst other things he's talked about the thrill of being at peace with God, our attitude to sin and our conquest of sin. In this chapter Paul wants to encourage us with some more exciting truths about who we now are in Christ.*

### **Read Romans 8:1-14**

1) What weakened the power of the law? (v3)

2) How did God overcome our sinful nature? (v1-4)

3) What does a person living in accordance to the Spirit do? How does this contrast with the person who lives according to the sinful nature? List as many things as possible? (v5-14)

### **Read Romans 8:15-27**

4) In these verses Paul compares present suffering with future glory. What are some of the vivid contrasts of this passage. How does this make you feel?

5) In verse 21, what do you think is included in "the glorious freedom of the children of God?"

6) What further things do we learn about the Spirit in these verses?

**Read Romans 8:28-39**

7) What do you think "the good" is in v28?

8) List all the things that God has done for us in v28-30. What do each of these terms mean?

9) Verse 31-35 is full of rhetoric questions. Reword each question in the form of a positive statement. How is each statement proof of the great love that God has for us in Christ?

**Thinking it over**

- What's so good about living "according to the Spirit"?
  
- What's so good about being "heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ"?
  
- What's so good about being "more than conquerors"?
  
- Can you think of a specific example of verse 28 being true in your own life? When is it hard to believe verse 28?
  
- Not many of us will suffer nakedness, famine or sword (cf v35-39) but what things in Australian life might threaten to separate us from the love of Christ?