



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

New Testament Survey

Lesson 29 – Romans 5-11 – The Fruits of Faith and the Tragedy of Israel

Chapters 5-8: Freedom from God's Anger, the Power of Sin, the Threats of God's Law, and Even Death

The Fruits of Faith

The great apostle to the Gentiles has already explained the Law and the Gospel in the first part of this letter. Paul has explained that a person receives the benefits of the Gospel only by faith in Christ, apart from the deeds of the Law. In this section he discusses the fruits of faith. We are saved alone by grace, because of Christ, through faith. But it is wrong to think that faith is a mere knowledge of what Christ has done.

Martin Luther once said: "Faith is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the Old Adam and makes us altogether different men. It is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works continually. It does not ask whether good works are to be done, but before the question is asked, it has already done them, and is constantly doing them. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace."

Read each of the sections below. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

Chapter 5: Freedom from God's Anger

In Chapter 5 Paul tells us that believers in Christ are free from God's anger. Believers in Christ have these blessings: peace with God, access to God, joy and comfort in time of trouble, and hope for the future; the believer has all of these things because God loved us even when we were His enemies and He sent His Son to die for us.

"Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

(v. __)

"We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand" (v. __ (We can pray.)

We **"rejoice in hope of the glory of God"** (v. __ (We have the sure hope of eternal life in heaven.)

We **"glory in tribulations"** (v. __ (We know that our Savior-God works all things for our good.)

"Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him"

(v. __)

"We were reconciled to God through the death of His Son" (v. __)

"We have now received the reconciliation" (v. __)

The Grand Comparison between Adam and Jesus Christ (Romans 5:12-21)

As one man's offense	So one Man's righteous act
Resulted in condemnation	Resulted in justification of life
For all persons	For all persons

This comparison shows us that Adam was a real person – as real as Jesus Himself. Adam brought sin into the world; Jesus Christ brought forgiveness of sin to the world. As Adam's sin affected everybody, so also Christ's righteousness is for all.

All persons have been reconciled to God through the vicarious death of Jesus Christ.

Only those who trust in Christ and what He did receive by faith the reconciliation and its benefits.

“Where sin abounded, grace abounded much more” (v. ____

All of this is ours only **“through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (v. ____

A Reformation hymn, written by Lazarus Spengler, summarizes the comparison of Adam and Christ:

“As by one man all mankind fell
And, born in sin, was doomed to hell,
So by one Man, who took our place,
We all received the gift of grace.”

Chapter 6: Freedom from the Power of Sin

In Chapter 6 Paul considers the question that some people raise. They say that if Jesus died to give us the forgiveness of sin, then we may as well sin all we please, since there is forgiveness for us anyway. Paul says: **“Certainly not!”** He says that Christ ended the power of sin by His suffering on the cross. When we are baptized in Jesus' name, we are set free from the power of sin. Sin is no longer our master. Christ has brought us out from the land of bondage and made us willing slaves of our gracious God and His Son Jesus.

“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!” (vv. ____

“Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” (v. ____

“Just as Christ was raised from the dead, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (v. ____

“Do not let sin reign in your mortal body” (v. ____

“Having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness” (v. ____

“Having been set free from sin, you have your fruit to holiness” (v. ____

“So now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness” (v. ____

“The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life” (v. ____

All of this is ours **“in Christ Jesus our Lord”** (v. ____

Chapter 7: Freedom from the Threats of God's Law

In Chapter 7 Paul teaches us that our Lord has set us free from the threats of the Law. We are no longer under the Law, and the curse of the Law no longer hangs over our heads. The

Holy Spirit now guides us as servants of God to do the things contained in the Law **“in the newness of the Spirit.”** Nevertheless, because of the Old Adam (the sinful flesh) that remains within us, we do not altogether succeed in doing God's will. Therefore, there remains for every Christian the continual struggle against the flesh. This struggle must continue until the end of our lives on earth.

The Law keeps on reminding us of our sin, especially the commandment: **“You shall not covet”**

(v. ____

“I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells” (v. ____

“The good I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice” (v. ____

“I delight in the law of God according to the inward man” (v. ____

“With the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin” (v. ____

Nevertheless, we are delivered **“through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (v. ____

The following hymn pictures the continued struggle between the old man and the new man:

“I know that sin and guilt combine To reign o'er ev'ry thought of mine

And turn from good to ill; I know that, when I try to be

Upright and just and true to Thee, I am a sinner still.”

Chapter 8: Even Freedom from Death

In Chapter 8 Paul comforts the believers who are struggling against their sinful flesh. He assures us that Christ has set us free from death itself. He teaches us that we are not condemned for our sin as long as we, in the power of the Spirit, are fighting against our sinful flesh. If we give up the struggle, however, and let the sinful flesh reign in our lives, then we shall die. We must go through many struggles as Christians, but we are not alone. God has given us His Holy Spirit. In fact, God Himself is working all things together for the good of His chosen people. Since God has from eternity chosen to bring us to faith in Christ, we can trust Him to keep us in that faith to the very end despite the many obstacles along the way.

“There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus” (v. ____

“The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death”

(v. ____

“Those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (v. ____

“If you live according to the flesh, you will die” (v. ____

“If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (v. ____

(Those who walk after the flesh let the flesh reign, instead of overcoming the flesh in the Spirit.)

“We are (adopted) children of God ... – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (vv. ____

"All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called"
(v. ____

(The called are, in this order: foreknown, predestined, called, justified, and glorified – all by grace.)

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (v. ____

"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" (v. ____

"I am persuaded that neither death nor life, ... nor any other created, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (v. ____

Note: To be foreknown by God means to be known in love with an aim to save.

Chapters 9-11: Israel's Rejection of Christ and Mission Work among the Gentiles

In this section Paul shows how Israel's rejection of Christ has led to the preaching of the Gospel of Christ among the Gentiles. The tragedy of Israel rejection of Jesus is Israel's own fault. Most of the Jewish people remained convinced that the way to salvation was their obedience to Law God had given them, which they did not really obey at all. What God wanted was for them to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus as the Savior that God had promised in the Old Testament from the beginning.

Since the Jews as a people rejected the Gospel, Paul and the other early Christians went to the non-Jews (the Gentiles), and the Holy Spirit brought many of these Gentiles into the one Church of Jesus. The Jewish Christians became a minority group in Christ's Church, even though they were the first ones to hear the Good News. Nevertheless, the Lord is still inviting the Jewish people today to receive their Messiah.

When a person comes to faith in Christ and is finally saved, it is due entirely to God's grace. On the other hand, when a person rejects Christ and is finally lost, it is his or her own fault.

"They are not all Israel who are of Israel" (v. 9: __ Only some in Israel are believers in Christ.

"They, seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness" to the believers (vv. 10: ____

"There is a remnant according to the election of grace" (v. 11: __

"If by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace" (v. 11: __

"Through their fall, ... salvation has come to the Gentiles" (v. 11: ____

"There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him" (v. 10: ____

"How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (v. 10: ____ (The need for missions)

"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (v. 10: ____

"God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all" (v. 11: ____

“How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (v. 11: ____

Questions

1. What does it mean that we are justified by Christ's blood?
2. What does it mean that we are justified by faith?
3. What must one believe in order to be justified by faith?
4. In what ways are Adam and Christ similar?
5. In what ways are Adam and Christ different?
6. Why is the Christian unable to do the good he wants to do as a Christian?
7. What does the Holy Spirit give the Christian the power to do?
8. What comfort does the Christian derive from the teaching of predestination?
9. What is the only way by which both Jews and Gentiles can be saved?
10. Why did most of the Jews reject their Messiah?
11. How does the Holy Spirit create faith in Christ in a person's heart?