

The Reign of Grace

- II. Righteousness Imputed; Justification (Rom. 3:21-5:21)
- A. The Description of Righteousness (3:21-31)
- B. The Illustration of Righteousness: Abraham (4:1-25)
 - 1. Faith is apart from works (4:1-8)
 - 2. Faith is apart from rituals—circumcision (4:9-12)
 - 3. Faith has God as its Object (4:16-25)
- C. The Benefits of Righteousness (5:1-11)
- D. **The Applicability of Righteousness (5:12-21)**

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The Reign of Grace

1. Learning to rejoice in our new position in Christ (1-2)
 2. Learning to rejoice in our present trials (3-10)
 3. Learning to rejoice in God Himself (11-21)
- Romans 5:11-21** – God's Plan: The "Reign of Grace" through Christ.
- v.11** – "we *exult* in God *through* our Lord Jesus Christ"
- The deepest intimacy comes from learning to rejoice in God.
- Starting with **v.12**, the representative consequences of two men, Adam and Jesus, are explained.
- Paul is going to take us back to *the act* that made us sinners by constitution and contrast this to *the act* that gives us righteousness.

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Three key verses to this section:

1. **v.12** – when sin entered by **Adam**, death followed.
 - Sin
 - sin (no longer "sins") – the sin principle, or the universality of sin
 - Here it means – **refusal to be controlled, or "self-willed"**
 - I sin (miss the mark) because I have a sin (self-willed) nature
 - When Adam sinned, all sinned—because we were "in Adam"
 - One humanity; One church.
 - Sin first, then death – the universality of death.
 - Death
 - A divine decree: **Heb. 9:23** – "it is appointed for men to die once"
 - Death is the absence of life!
 - Death and judgment are past over for the believer, Christ our Substitute endured them in our place!

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The Doctrine of the Two Men: Adam vs. Christ.

- The man **Adam** (v.14)
- In the **Garden** of Eden
- Adam's **Act**—one trespass (v.12, 15, 17, 18)
- The **Result** of Adam's act: condemnation, guilt, death (v.15, 16, 18, 19)
- **King Sin**—reigning through Death (v.17)
- Humanity's Given **State** through Adam: Condemned Persons and Slaves of Death
- **DEATH**
- The man **Christ** (v.11, 14)
- In the **Garden** of Gethsemane
- Christ's **Act**—one righteous act on the cross (v.18)
- The **Result** of Christ's act: righteousness (worth), life, kingship (v.17, 18, 19)
- **King Grace**—reigning through righteousness (v.21)
- Humanity's Possible **State** through faith in Christ: Justified Persons, Reigning in Life
- **LIFE**

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Three key verses to this section:

2. **v.17** – through Adam—death reigned-as-king; MUCH MORE, those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign-as-kings in life through the One, Jesus Christ!!
 - If we are "in Christ" then our reign in life has already begun!
 - Has it begun in your life?
 - Are you *receiving* the abundance of grace? Or are you still trying to please God through your actions (Law)?
 - Are you receiving the gift of righteousness? Or are you trying to gain worth by your own actions?

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Three key verses to this section:

3. **v.18,19**—condemnation and sin through Adam; righteousness through Christ.
 - "We were connected with the old Adam; and the old man—all we had and were in Adam, must be crucified—if we were to be 'joined to Another, even to Him that was raised from the dead.' Theological teaching since the Reformation has never set forth clearly our utter end in death with Christ, at the cross." (Newell)
 - "The fatal result of this terrible error is to leave The Law as claimant over those in Christ: for, 'Law has dominion over a man as long as he liveth' (7:1). **Unless you are able to believe in your very heart that you died with Christ, that your old man was crucified with Him, and that you were buried, and that your history before God in Adam the first came to an utter end at Calvary, you will never get free from the claims of Law upon your conscience.**" (Newell)

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"Both Calvinists and Arminians think that *the flesh is not so bad* that it cannot be acted on for God by Christ using the Law of God and giving it power through the Spirit" (William Kelly)

"Christ says 'Give me All. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work: I want You. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it...'" (C.S. Lewis)

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1 Samuel 10:20-22

If you are in Christ, then the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness should embolden you to reign-as-kings in life

Which king are you? The one reigning in grace or the one hiding in the baggage of your life?

- Earthly stuff
- Ambitions
- Religious traditions
- Entertainment
- Self-righteousness

How sad it is that we who have received the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, and whom God desires to be *reigning in life in Christ*, have gotten ourselves hidden "amongst the stuff" of life...

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