

Romans is a book that contains a number of dramatic “Therefores.” We have the “Therefore” of condemnation in Romans 3:20, justification in Romans 5:1, no condemnation in Romans 8:1, and dedication in Romans 12:1.

In presenting his case, Paul has proved that the whole world is guilty before God, and that no one can be saved by religious deeds such as keeping the law. He has explained that God’s way of salvation has always been “by grace, through faith” (Eph. 2:8–9), and he has used Abraham as his illustration. If a reader of the letter stopped at this point, he would know that he needed to, and could, be saved. But there is much more the sinner needs to know about justification by faith. Can he be sure that it will last? How is it possible for God to save a sinner through the death of Christ on the cross? Romans 5 is Paul’s explanation of the last two words in Romans 4: “our justification.” He explained two basic truths: the blessings of our justification (Rom. 5:1–11), and the basis for our justification (Rom. 5:12–21).

Paul’s purpose to carry on writing was to assure his readers that justification is a lasting thing. His Jewish readers in particular would ask, “Can this spiritual experience last if it does not require obedience to the law? What about the trials and sufferings of life? What about the coming judgment?” When God declared us righteous in Jesus Christ, He gave to us seven spiritual blessings that assure us we cannot be lost.

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

We have been walking through what Christ has done for us in reversing the disaster of sin and our rebellion. Share together if anything has been renewed, a perspective has been highlighted or if the Lord has been speaking to you in any particular way.

1. What two results do you have in your life because you are justified by faith ((Romans 5:1-2)? In what way were we enabled to receive these two privileges? If someone asked, “How do you know when you are a Christian?” from these verses, how would we answer him or her?
2. Have you ever rejoiced in your sufferings v3? What would that look like in today’s world and does it differ from the sufferings Paul has in mind? How do hard times bring about perseverance? What is the result of this type of perseverance? How so?
3. Can you give an example of a hope that disappoints? How does this hope mentioned not disappoint us?
4. What three words in Romans 5: 6, 8, 10 are used to describe the ‘us’? Who does the ‘us’ or ‘we’ as described in these three verses (6,8,10)? What do you like about those three words? What don’t you like about them?
5. Can you think of a time when you have been helpless? What happened and how did it make you think and feel? Why is helpless a good description of our days before we knew Christ?
6. Why might Paul think ‘enemies’ (Romans 5:10) a good way to describe non-Christians? See Ephesians 6:10-12

**Prayer Points**

1. Pray for Ukrainian refugees coming into Bexhill. Pray for the Town council, RVA, other organisations and the local churches as we partner together in providing a Help Space and support.
2. Pray for the conflict in Ukraine. Pray that the war would cease and that help can come quickly.
3. Pray for BMS partner Christian College of Theology Bangladesh, that their Theological Education by Extension programme is a point of unity for all denominations in Bangladesh..

These Study Guides accompany the weekly teaching at our Sunday morning services and are for use in Connect Groups and personal study.

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001

**God's Big Picture:  
Part II: Redemption  
Reasons to Rejoice  
Romans 5:1-11**

The Bible isn't just a random collection of books but one connected story and it is vital to understand it in that context. Grasping the bigger picture helps us to see why studying the Bible is essential to our spiritual growth. Learning the big picture is also key to interpreting, understanding and applying all that we read and study in the Bible.

