

Romans 3-5

Even though we are reading and studying three chapters this week, I do not believe you will be overwhelmed. Reading these chapters together will help us have a better understanding of Paul's intended message. Please pray and ask God to open your eyes and your heart to all he has for you. Listen carefully for his voice.

Observation Romans 3 _____

1. Romans 3 opens with Paul directing the reader's attention to the nation of Israel. Paul uses Israel, as his focal point. What did God entrust to Israel that made them different from other nations?
2. According to verses 9-12, what is the truth about every man, woman and child who has ever lived?
All _____ (vs 9)
There is _____ not even one person (vs 11)
No one _____ (vs 11)
No one _____ (vs 11)
All have _____ (vs 12)
No one _____ not even one person. (vs 12)
3. According to verses 13-18, what is the proof of all Paul mentioned in verses 9-12? How is their depraved condition easily seen?
4. God gave his righteous judgment and law to the Jews. According to Romans 3:19-20, what was God's purpose for giving them his righteous decrees?
5. God's word is compared to a mirror in James 1:23-24. What can a mirror do for a person? Romans 3:20-24 speaks to knowing God's law and knowing the gift of grace that we are being offered. How is a person justified, made right with God, even though we are all sinners?

Note the reasoning of verses 21-28. What universal truth do you see concerning all mankind?

Observation Romans 4 _____

1. The apostle Paul begins this chapter by pointing to Abraham, the father of all Israel. He is highly esteemed by the Jews. How does Paul say Abraham was made right with God?
2. What is the difference between wages and a gift?

3. Consider the various translations of Romans 4:7-8. What effect does forgiveness have on the hearts of men and women who receive it?
4. Romans 4:10 asks the question, under what circumstances was righteousness accredited to Abraham? Read Romans 4:10-25, what did you learn about Abraham and his relationship with God? Be specific.

Observation Romans 5

1. This chapter begins with the word "therefore." When we see this word, it should cause us to pause and consider for a moment all the author was previously discussing. What was the main point of Romans 4? Read Ephesians 2:8-9 to go along with this thought. What is the only way to receive forgiveness and reconciliation with God?

2. Paul has previously spoken to them about God's righteous judgment and wrath. Now, like a cool breeze on a hot summer day Romans 5:1 directs the reader's attention to the fact that those justified by faith have _____.

3. Life is not automatically made perfect for a believer at salvation. We are not immediately transported to heaven. Verses 3-5 help us find purpose in our sufferings. What is the growth process that suffering sets in motion?



4. God loves us so much that he has given all believers the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. What should our attitude be when suffering a problem or a trial?

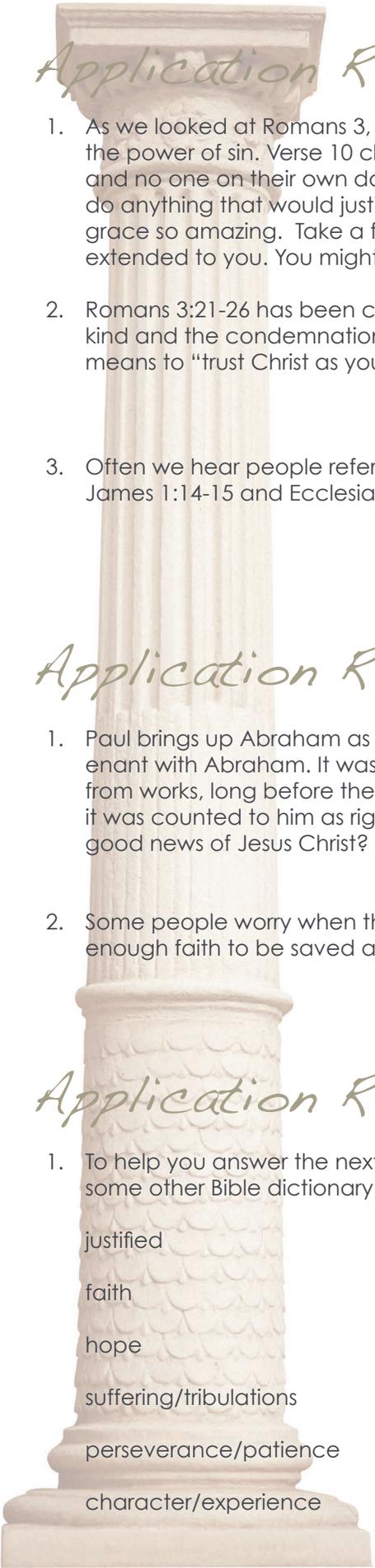
5. Read Romans 5:6-11. What important facts do we learn about our condition before salvation and God's great love for us?

6. In verses 12-19, list all you learn about Adam's trespass and God's gracious gift.

Adam's trespass

God's gracious gift

7. Paul wants the reader to understand that the purpose of the law was never to save men and women from their sin. Adam's sin was against the clear and spoken word of God. Before the law was given man relied on the instructions of others and their own conscience. According to Romans 5:20, what is the intended purpose of the law? Read Romans 7:13 to help you answer this question.



Application Romans 3

1. As we looked at Romans 3, we saw every man, woman and child who has ever been born is under the power of sin. Verse 10 clearly states, "no one is righteous, not even one." No one seeks after God, and no one on their own does anything good enough to affect their eternal destiny. None of us can do anything that would justify forgiveness. Justification is an act of grace. This is what makes God's grace so amazing. Take a few minutes to stop and talk to your heavenly Father about the love he has extended to you. You might even write out your prayer.
2. Romans 3:21-26 has been called the heart of the gospel. We have clearly seen the sinfulness of mankind and the condemnation of God on sinful men and women everywhere. What do you believe it means to "trust Christ as your Savior?"
3. Often we hear people refer to big sins and little sins. What is the truth about sin? Read Isaiah 50:1-2; James 1:14-15 and Ecclesiastes 7:20 to help write your answer.

Application Romans 4

1. Paul brings up Abraham as an example. The Jewish people knew that God had established his covenant with Abraham. It was imperative for them and us to understand Abraham was justified, apart from works, long before the law existed. He simply believed God and the Bible says in Genesis 15:6, it was counted to him as righteousness. How does knowing this help you understand the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ?
2. Some people worry when they hear we are saved by faith. They fear they will not have a great enough faith to be saved and stay saved. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 tell us about our faith?

Application Romans 5

1. To help you answer the next few questions, define the following words using Strong's Concordance or some other Bible dictionary.

justified

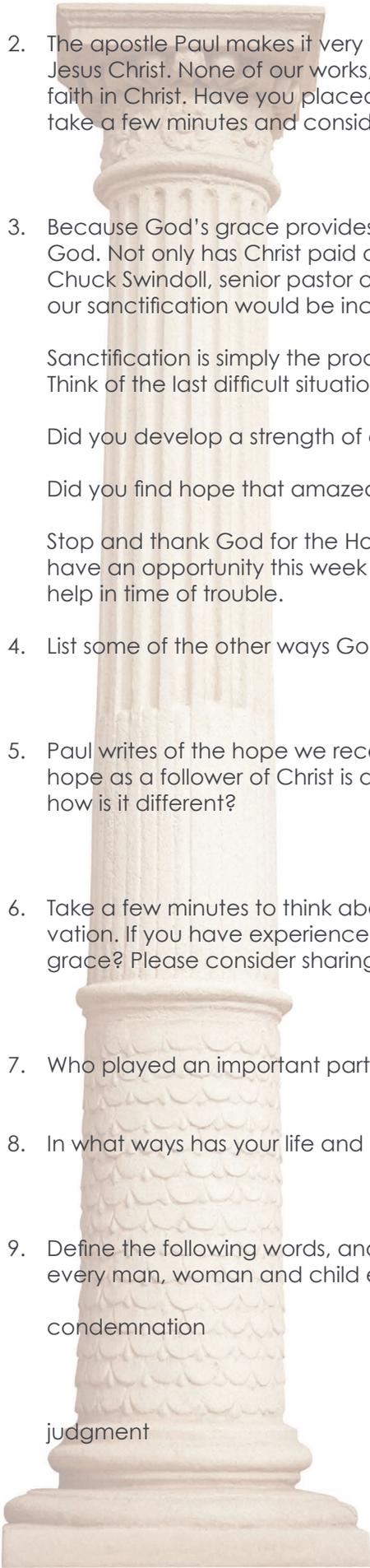
faith

hope

suffering/tribulations

perseverance/patience

character/experience

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2. The apostle Paul makes it very clear that the only way for us to experience peace with God is through Jesus Christ. None of our works, even a lifetime of dedicated works, produces righteousness apart from faith in Christ. Have you placed your trust in Christ alone for forgiveness of your sins? If not, why not take a few minutes and consider all the benefits of being a child of God?
 3. Because God's grace provides salvation through faith in Christ's finished work, we have peace with God. Not only has Christ paid our sin debt, he provides us hope in the difficulties and trials of life. Chuck Swindoll, senior pastor of Stonebriar Community Church, said "Without suffering, the project of our sanctification would be incomplete."

Sanctification is simply the process of our refinement. God purifies and prepares us for divine service. Think of the last difficult situation you experienced. Did you find the strength to persevere?

Did you develop a strength of character that you did not previously have?

Did you find hope that amazed you?

Stop and thank God for the Holy Spirit encouraging you and guiding you through a trying time. If you have an opportunity this week try and share with someone how God's Spirit has been a very present help in time of trouble.

4. List some of the other ways God has demonstrated his love for you.
5. Paul writes of the hope we receive through the gift of grace we have been given. Do you believe our hope as a follower of Christ is different from what the world means when they refer to hope? If so, how is it different?
6. Take a few minutes to think about all we have seen concerning sin and God's gracious gift of salvation. If you have experienced this gift, how has your life changed since accepting God's gift of grace? Please consider sharing some of your answer with your group.
7. Who played an important part in your understanding and accepting Christ?
8. In what ways has your life and faith influenced others for Christ?
9. Define the following words, and write a sentence or two explaining how these two words apply to every man, woman and child ever born.

condemnation

judgment

10. The words propitiation and justification are beautiful words that speak of all God has done and will do for believers. Define these words and write a brief paragraph describing what they mean to you.

propitiation

justification

Extra Verses

◆ James 1:23-24

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

◆ Romans 4:7-8

NIV: "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."

NLT: "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. ⁸ Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin."

ESV: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; ⁸ blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

MSG: Fortunate those whose crimes are carted off, whose sins are wiped clean from the slate. ⁸ Fortunate the person against whom the Lord does not keep score.

◆ Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

◆ Isaiah 50:1-2

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

◆ James 1:14-15

But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

◆ Ecclesiastes 7:20

Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

◆ Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

◆ Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.