

***We Stand in His Grace and Rejoice in His Hope – The Letter to the Romans***

I. Introduction

- Apostolicity: Entrusted, Empowered, Extending (*West Wing*)
- Audience: Roman church as Jew/Gentile Christian (cf. Acts 2:10; Acts 18:2)
- Genre: Epistle (circumstantial) ----- Teaching (general)
- Motive(s): —> (**past**) Galatia and Corinth —> (**soon**) Crisis in Jerusalem  
                   —> (**prospect**) support for Spain —> (**current**) unite church in Rome

II. Themes

- Hostility between God and Humans
- The gift of grace: Justification by Faith
- Union with Christ and the Beginning of New Creation
- Union between Jews and Gentiles

III. Some Stylistic Tactics

- Old Testament Figures: David and Abraham (Rom 4), Adam (Rom 5), Temple (12)
- Paul’s Rhetorical Questions (e.g., 3:1, 5, 27; 4:1; 6:1, 15)

IV. Outline

- Epistolary Intro and Thanksgiving (1:1-15)
- The Gospel Revealing the power of God, justifying by faith (1:16-4:25)
- The Gospel Revealing union with Christ, hope in the Spirit (5:1-8:39)
- The Gospel Revealing the unfolded story of Israel (9:1-11:36)
- The Gospel Revealing transformed lives of believers (12:1-15:13)
- Epistolary Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

(adapted from Moo & Carson, 2005)

V. Focus Passage: Romans 5:1-10

1. Expand on what we learn about God’s character here. How is **He** revealed in the text?
2. What aspect of salvation is ‘already’ and what kind of salvation is expected to come?
3. How does this passage refute/contrast the following views
  - a. A so-called antinomian view (“shall we sin so grace may abound?” Rom 6:1)
  - b. A legalistic view (“is this blessing only for the circumcised?” Rom 4:9)

VI. Application: ***IN VIEW OF THIS PASSAGE...***

1. How does this passage freshly inform our liturgy? Where are the truths woven in ...
  - To the Confession      • To the Prayers of the People      • to our Tithes and Offerings
  - To the Eucharist      • To the Passing of Peace      • and to other aspects...?
2. Reflect on the process where Romans 5:2-3 says the **hope in God’s glory** can be produced (grow, increase, multiply) in us. How does this passage speak into your life circumstances? What is the comfort here for our suffering?
3. Where is there empowerment here to love one another? ... to love our enemies?