

Week 1 Rom. 1:1--5:21

I. Key Verses:

- Rom. 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Rom. 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom. 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."
- Rom. 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not from men, but from God.
- Rom. 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.
- Rom. 4:13 For *it was* not through the law *that* the promise *was made* to Abraham or to his seed that he would be the heir of the world, but through the righteousness of faith.
- Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.
- Rom. 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV p. 599)

III. The Light of the Truth:

JUSTIFICATION

—Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 3:22 note 1; 25 note 2, note 3;

Further Reading: Life-Study of Romans, Msg. 5.

IV. Life Supply:

What is justification? Justification means that the righteousness of God has been manifested. Although the righteousness of God has existed for ages, it was not manifested to us until we believed in the Lord and called on His name. Then the righteousness of God was revealed to us. When God's righteousness is revealed, it is manifested. It is manifested to us when we believe in the Lord Jesus.

According to our experience, it was not God who firstly approved us, but we who approved God. We do not know how much time God spent to convince us of His righteousness. We were rebellious and said, "I don't like God. God is not right." We all thought this way before we were saved. Many people speak against God saying, "If God is right, why are there so many poor people on the earth? If God is right, why is there no justice among the nations?" They admit that there is God, but claim that He is not righteous. Many of us can testify the same thing, confessing that we thought God was wrong, that He was not righteous. However, God has been patient with us, doing many things for us until He finally convinced us of His righteousness. Who justified whom first? We firstly justified God. When we were convinced by God of His righteousness, we justified Him and wept in repentance, saying, "God, forgive me. I'm so sinful and unclean. I need Your forgiveness." When we called on the name of the Lord Jesus, we not only were put into Christ but upon Christ. Now we are upon Christ as our propitiation place where God and we can justify one another. We declare, "God, You are righteous. I have no problem with You." Then God replies, "Dear child, I have no problem with you either." Firstly, we approved God; then God approved us. We justified God; then God justified us.

Because of this, boasting is excluded. None of us has anything of which to boast. We have not been justified by the law of works, but by the law of faith (3:27). This faith does not originate with us; it is of the living Christ. (*Life-Study of Romans, pp.57, 60-61, 63*)