

## **In step with Jesus 168**

**September 7, 2025**

**Key Text: 16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)**

### **Introduction**

As we continue our journey through Paul’s letter to the Romans, let us recap the key lessons we learnt in Romans chapter 4. First, we learnt that Abraham, our father of faith, was not justified by law, but by faith. His justification came before his circumcision. Therefore, justification cannot be an exclusive heritage for the circumcised. Secondly, we learnt through the experience of Abraham that righteousness before God is as simple as believing every word He has spoken to us. Abraham believed God, and it was counted for him as righteousness. I believe that this is the most important lesson for those of us who are living in this post Christian era. We have a dare need to believe God’s word and never to focus on the things we see. As we see unbelief on the increase and more people turning away from God and the fellowship of His people, we must fix our eyes on God’s written word, and on Jesus Christ the living word. We must have that faith that clings to God no matter what we see. It is that faith that God counts as righteousness. The good news is that even that faith is a gift from God. Let us receive God’s gift of faith with gratitude, and it shall be well with our souls.

Today we will start reading Romans chapter 5. In Romans chapter 5, Paul continues his exposition on the science of salvation. His emphasis is that we have received a rich gift of grace through Jesus Christ and that the gift of grace supersedes the reward of unrighteousness. Let us read the first few verses of Romans chapter 5 and see what we can learn.

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

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **Reflection**

In the text we read, Apostle Paul continues to explain how salvation works. He begins by establishing the fact that we have been justified by faith and therefore we have peace with God. But throughout the text, he continues to point us to Jesus Christ, the source of everything we have in God. It is through Jesus Christ that we have peace with God because Jesus reconciled us to God by the sacrifice of His own blood. It is also Jesus Christ who gives us access to the grace of God. It is one thing to be reconciled with God, but it is another thing to stand in favor with God. Jesus Christ has given us access to such favor that is beyond human comprehension, and it is our privilege to enjoy that favor. While we stand in that grace, we can rejoice in the hope of the glory we will share with Jesus Christ. Unless we accept God's unmerited favor or grace, we cannot hope for His glory. However, accepting God's grace does not take away the possibility of sufferings but it is important for us to also rejoice in those sufferings, knowing that our sufferings are not in vain. God allows sufferings to strengthen and grow us, just as physical exercise strengthen the body. By suffering, we grow endurance, character and hope. The more we hope, the more we receive the love of God by the holy Spirit.

Gently but very eloquently, Paul in the first few verses of Romans chapter 5, shows us how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work together to secure our salvation. While we were still sinners, the Father bestowed His love upon us and gave us His only begotten son to die for us. Jesus willingly laid down His life for us, and by His sacrifice, He gave us access to the favor of God. Our part is to receive Jesus' gift by faith. Once we receive Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit pours the love of God in our hearts so we can love God and obey Him. Friends we have nothing to boast of, but we have every reason to receive God's gracious gift with gratitude.

