

In step with Jesus 169

September 14, 2025

Key Text: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6: 23)

Introduction

We praise God for another opportunity to study His word. The enemy would do anything to stop us from learning about God's grace. He will use anything and anybody to becloud our mind from God's love, but we must keep hope alive. We must look beyond the darkness that often try to surround our souls and keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. He bore our iniquities; he took our shame and our pains on the cross. He understands our needs when nobody else does and He is willing and able to help us in our darkest night. For some of us, this is probably too good to be real, but we have the testimony of so many witnesses over the years. The saints who have gone before us testify to the fact that God is good. In many ways, God has also shown Himself faithful in our lives. He is the same, yesterday, today and forevermore. So, we can trust Him.

Today we will finish reading Romans chapter 5. Last week we were reminded again that God has given us everything we need in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, He reconciled us to Himself and now we have access, not just to forgiveness but to unmerited favour, which is our shield from the harassment of the evil one. In today's reading we shall find that God's favour is greater than our sins. We are called to look to Jesus who made excess payment for every sin we have ever committed or will ever commit. Let us read Romans Chapter 5 verses 8 to 21 and see what we can learn about God's abundant grace.

Romans 5: 8- 21

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. 12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. 20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflections

In today's reading, Apostle Paul takes our salvation story to the next level. He reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and that everything needed to save us from the wrath of God has been accomplished. Repeatedly, he uses the expression, "much more" while comparing the result of sin to the gift of God. Sin was great but grace was much more. Through the sin of Adam, death reigned over all men but much more, we have abundant life through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The best news of all is that by the obedience of Jesus Christ, we have been made righteous. The problem however is, when we look at the law of God, sin is magnified. We see ourselves for who we are. We see our helplessness, because we stand condemned before a righteous God. But God's plan is that the knowledge of sin and our helplessness before the law should lead us to Jesus Christ. The conclusion of the whole matter is that the grace of God in Jesus Christ is greater than sin. This is the salvation story in superlative terms. Satan does not want us to believe this. He has two strategies to keep us away from this truth. The first strategy is to keep us focused on trying to keep the law in our strength. That way he can harass us with guilt and a sense of failure because we cannot keep the law in our own strength. The second strategy is to lead us to reject God's law as no longer binding. That way he can lead us to presumptuous sins that separate us from God. But God wants us to believe that His law is still binding on us, but much more, He wants us to look to Jesus Christ who has paid the price for our sins. He wants us to know and accept His love so that we can naturally keep His laws in response to His love for us.