

**(4) GIFTS OF SALVATION: *Romans* 5-8**

**Welcome**

- Christianity in Rome: Rom 1:1-17
- The letter as a whole: Rom 1-16
- Need of grace: Rom 1-4
- **GIFT OF GRACE: ROM 5-8**
- Jews and Gentiles: Rom 9-11
- Grace in practice: Rom 12:1-15:6
- Conclusion: Rom 15:7-33; 16
- Romans for today's church

(a) Is this a unit of argument?

**Frames**

When we come to the second block of argument from 5-8, the frames are provided by the fully expression our Lord Jesus Christ and God, which are found in 5:1 and 8:38.

5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with **God** through **our Lord Jesus Christ**, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of **God**.

8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in **Christ Jesus our Lord**.

**Vocabulary**

Within chapter 5-8, the dominant vocabulary is that of sin and its synonyms (!), and that of Christ. Supporting vocabulary, taken from the first three verses, would be that of life and living and that of spirit.

**Rivets**

The link between the end of ch.8 and the start of ch.9 is a stark contrast, using similar ideas, because Paul is now going to deal with a special and painful topic in strong emotional contrast to the preceding optimism.

8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to **separate** us from the love of God in **Christ Jesus our Lord**.

9:1 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— 2 I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and **cut off** from **Christ** for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

(b) What steps are there in the argument?

SECTION 1	5:1-11 (Salvation in Christ)
SECTION 2	5:12-21 (comparison Adam / Christ)
SECTION 3	6:1-23 The baptised with and in Christ
SECTION 4	7:1-6 example and subthesis

SECTION 5	7:7-25 (negative: humanity under the Law)
SECTION 6	8:1-30 (positive: the baptised and the Spirit)
SECTION 7	8:31-39 (Hymnic conclusion)

(c) What are the key texts, in each section, along the way?

(1) Rom. 5:8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

(2) Rom. 5:17 If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

(3) Rom. 6:10 The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(4) Rom. 7:4 In the same way, my friends, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.

(5) Rom. 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

(6) Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

(7) Rom. 8:33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

(d) How far have we got in the argument?

As always the main thesis of a section gives a key to grasping the whole.

<u>Rom. 5:20</u> But law came in, with the result that the trespass multiplied; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <u>21</u> so that, just as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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Introduction	5:1-11 (Salvation in Christ)
Exposition	5:12-21 (comparison Adam / Christ),
Proof:	6:1-8:30 (comparison two types of humanity)
(A)	6:1-23 The baptised with and in Christ <i>7:1-6 example and subthesis</i>
(B)	7:7-25 (negative: humanity under the Law)
(A*)	8:1-30 (positive: the baptised and the Spirit)
Conclusion	8:31-39

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*Pointers for Prayer*

1. *All of us have been baptised into the death of Jesus (a startling expression). Does this "Christ mysticism" of Paul speak to me today and how?*
2. *Weakness in prayer is acknowledged by Paul and at the same time we have the Holy Spirit within. What's my own experience of prayer and the crying out of Abba Father?*
3. *Paul makes a list of things which could not separate him from Christ. Is there anything that could happen that would make you not believe in God and in Jesus?*