

Romans Chapters 1-4 Overview

1:1-15	Greeting, opening, reason for writing.
1:16-17	Thesis statement. This is what he will argue for and refer back to for the rest of the letter (16-17).
1:18-32	The Unrighteousness of the Gentiles (18-20).
2:1-3:8	The Unrighteousness of the Jews (2:1, 12).
3:9-20	The Unrighteousness of All People (10-11, 20).
3:21-26	God's Righteousness through the Death of Christ (21-26).
3:27-31	Righteousness by Faith for Jews and Gentiles (29-30).
4:1-25	Abraham as the Father of Jews and Gentiles (22-25).

Chapter 5:1-6 The Assurance of Hope

Hope is what _____ us and _____ us through suffering (Rom. 8:18) and our hope is strengthened or deepened having faithfully persevered through suffering.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18, ESV)

Suffering has a _____ (James 1:2-4). All suffering is filtered through the sovereign, loving hands of the Father (Rom. 8:28).

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4, ESV)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28, ESV)

Suffering and troubles are _____ for the Christian life by Christ Himself (John 16:33) and our hope is in Him, that He has overcome the world. (Mt. 5:11-12)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, ESV)

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12, ESV)

Prayer

Father, thank You for the grace you have freely given us, and the peace we have with You because of this grace. Thank You for the hope you have given us in Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that we can trust that the sufferings we go through here on earth have a purpose. Please help us trust in You through tribulations and trials. Strengthen our faith as we persevere. Grant us faith to know that You love us, that You are sovereign, and that You are there with us in the suffering. Grow us in Christian maturity, and godly character as we cling to You and the grace of Christ during our present sufferings. Help us run to You during troubled time and not to anyone or anything else as a means of escape from the pain. And grant us the sensitivity and strength to recognize and bear one another's burdens as the family of God. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Chapter 5:6-11 Assurance of Salvation

We know that we can trust Him. We know that He loves us! He has proved it by sending His only, perfect Son to die in our place for our sins.

Reconcile - An exchange. An adjustment of difference. A restoration of favor. We have been _____ to God's favor through the grace of Christ's sacrifice for us!

It is this assurance of God's love for us that gives us the hope to endure when suffering and tribulation comes.

(9-11) - We have been justified _____. We have been reconciled _____. We are His children _____. But, we have not yet been saved from His judgment and wrath (Heb. 9:27). The judgment comes after death. We rejoice in the promise that we WILL be saved from God's judgment by Christ on that day. Since we were justified by faith while we were sinners, again, how much more can we trust that we will be saved from His wrath now that we belong to Him?!

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, (Hebrews 9:27, ESV)

Prayer

Father, what a great, just, gracious, loving God You are! Thank You for everything You have accomplished for us in the Gospel of Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Thank You for His perfect life. Thank You for His substitutionary death. Thank You for His victorious resurrection. Thank You for the life, reconciliation, and justification You have given us even now through faith in Jesus. We praise You for and rejoice in the promise that we will be saved from Your wrath by our King Jesus who has defeated death, hell, and the grave. Forgive us when we doubt Your love for us. Forgive and help our unbelief. Thank You, Father for choosing to love and save us because without You we are hopeless and helpless. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Chapter 5:12-21 Hope in Christ's Triumph over Adam's Sin

One man's sin _____ all. One man's righteousness _____ many.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalm 51:5, ESV)

We are actually _____ condemned. We are born in iniquity and condemned because of that. But a symptom of being born in iniquity is willful, active rebellion against God. Because of our sinful acts we are storing up wrath for the coming judgment (Rom. 2:5). We sin because we are sinners. Our actions prove our true nature, not produce it.

But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (Romans 2:5, ESV)

Rejecting Jesus is not what sends someone to hell. We are under God's wrath from birth. We are rebellious idolators from birth. This means that there are no "innocent" people in the world. There are only two types of people in the world: those who are in Adam and those who are in Christ.

Just as one man's fallenness and condemnation is _____ to us through no doing of our own, so the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us through no doing of our own. Christ's righteousness overcomes Adam's sin and the iniquity that we are born into.

Prayer

Father, thank You again that Christ's righteousness overcomes our sinful state and willful rebellion against You! God, may the truths that we have read empower us and embolden us to share the Gospel with those around us, with those in our communities, and with those in nations and people groups who have little to no access to the Gospel of Your Son, because we know that their condition is the same as ours was apart from You-hopeless. Grant that, through Your Word, by the power of Your Spirit, we would have a deeper understanding of the Gospel. May that deeper understanding lead us to know and love You more and may it motivate us to action for the good of those around us-in our families, church, nation, and world.