



## MAY 12

# THE GOSPEL OF GOD

## THE GIFT: PEACE & GLORY



### GETTING STARTED

This weekend we returned to our series, *The Gospel of God*. As we begin Chapter 5 of Romans, it serves as a type of *mountaintop* from which we can look back on where we've come on our journey in this letter and look forward to where this journey is taking us.

Before you start the study, take a few moments to pause and reflect on the following verses.

*Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **Romans 5:1–2***



### STUDY QUESTIONS

- Let's start with a brief recap of the opening section of *The Gospel of God* series. In the first four chapters of Romans, Paul does two things:
  - He lays out a clear case against the human race because of our rebellion and sin.
  - He details God's great rescue mission to spare us from His wrath.
  - Read **Romans 1:18-32**. What do you notice about how sin is described in this passage? What is our core sin? What are the effects and consequences it leads to in this passage?
  - We live in a culture that downplays sin and its effects on our lives and culture. Why is it so important for us to know just how dangerous and destructive sin is?
  - Read **Romans 3:21-26**. What does this passage teach us about God's rescue plan for our race?
- What was one key insight or takeaway that you gained from the weekend message?
- This weekend's message focused on **Romans 5:1-2**. Take a few moments to read through these verses several times, slowly, in a couple different translations.
  - Write down any key words or phrases that jump out to you. Why do you think the Spirit is drawing your attention there?
- In the message, Michael shared two key principles. The first was *We Receive Peace ... Now*. Read **Colossians 1:13-14**.
  - What do you think Paul means when he writes that we have been *rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Son he loves*?
- In the message, Michael used several different metaphors to describe the peace we receive from God when we come to Christ. For example, he said:

- *The war is over.*
- *We receive a full pardon for our sins.*
- *We receive total amnesty for all crimes against the King.*
- *We are transformed from enemies into dearly loved sons and daughters.*

a. How do those metaphors help you understand Colossians 1:13-14?

6. Michael's second principle was *We Will Receive Glory ... In The Future.*

a. Read **Romans 8:18-21 & 23** and **Philippians 3:20-21**. Paraphrase each passage in your own words.

b. What does each passage say about our future?

c. Our *future glory* includes new physical bodies (like Jesus' resurrection body) to live in God's new creation. Is the physical transformation of your body one you've thought much about before? Explain.

7. Michael concluded the weekend teaching by having us reflect on two important questions. The first was *Have You Received ... The He Good News?*

a. Read **Romans 10:9-10**. What do you think the words "*confess*" and "*believe*" mean?

b. Reflect on your story. What were one or two key ways in which God revealed the Gospel to you? (Take your time and think through the important events, experiences, and people that God used to bring you to Christ.)

c. Since giving your life to Christ, how has God made His Gospel bigger and more real to you?

8. The second question was *Are You Living ... In The Place Called Grace?* Read **Ephesians 2:8-9** and write a brief paraphrase of the passage in your own words.

a. That passage makes it clear that our salvation is a gift, not something we earn from God. Why does this matter? How does it impact our lives and relationship with God and others?

b. Is there any area of your life in which you struggle accepting God's grace for something you have done or has been done to you (from your past or in the present)? Why do you find it difficult to accept God's grace in this area?

9. Take a few moments and pray **Ephesians 2:8-9** over yourself. Read it through a few more times and take it one verse at a time.

a. Share your gratitude with God for the grace He has given you and is showing you through the gift of Jesus in your life.

b. Pray for any areas of your life where you are trying to *earn* God's grace or are *struggling* to receive His grace. As you do, it may be helpful for you to speak these words out loud more than once: *Grace is a gift that God has freely given.*

c. Pray for the Spirit to continue to open your eyes to experience God's grace in your everyday life.

10. As we wrap up, reflect one more time on the weekend message and this study, then pray: *Holy Spirit, what is one step you are leading me to take for the journey ahead?*

a. Write down anything you sense the Spirit revealing to you and pray over it with your Life Group.