

**COMING UP ...** MAY 26 NO CLASS (Memorial Day weekend) **JUNE 2** Romans 6 **JUNE 9** Romans 7 **JUNE 16** Romans 8

**LIVING IN THE “PROMISED LAND”**

- We *desire* to walk with God in newness of life
- But instead much of the time we seem to live *beneath* our new life rather than *according* to our new life
- We seem to wander around in the spiritually dry and dusty “Wilderness” of self-effort rather than living in the “Promised Land” of the abundant life (John 10:10)
- We seem to spend much of our time flailing and failing against sin; boxing the air
- We get frustrated and feel like giving up
- We can feel increasingly separated from God because we feel we’re just not measuring up
- We know there must be another way ...
- How do we live in the “Promised Land?”
- How do we “cross the river?”
- Those who’ve “crossed the river” have settled the answers to three questions, and then live in light of those answers ...
- How does God see me—really?
- How do I overcome deliberate sin?
- How do I pursue holiness?

**ROMANS 5-8**

5	6	7	8
Justification	Sanctification		
Penalty Paid	Power Broken		
Our Position	Our Progress		
Christ died for us	We died with Christ to sin	We died to the Law	We walk in the Spirit
New position New standing New privileges	We died to sin as a master	We died to our own self-effort	We are transformed by the Spirit

**LESSON THEME:** How does God see me—really?

**How Does God See Me—Really?**

- Romans 1-4: God justifies sinners who believe
  - By grace alone, faith alone, Christ alone (3:21-31)
- Justification: a legal declaration by which God declares the guilty sinner righteous by *imputing* Christ’s righteousness to his account
  - By faith, not by works (4:1-8)
  - By grace, not by Law (4:9-17)
  - By resurrection power, not human effort (4:18-25)
- The justified live forever in God’s grace
  - They enjoy a new *standing* before God (5:1-4)
    - They are at peace with God (v. 1)
    - They constantly live in the “land” of His grace (v. 2)
    - They live with the hope of glory in spite of difficulties, hardship or suffering (vv. 2-4)
- Justified: no more threat of punishment (judicial)

Reconciled: no more hostility or anger (relational)

*They are fully accepted and lack nothing*

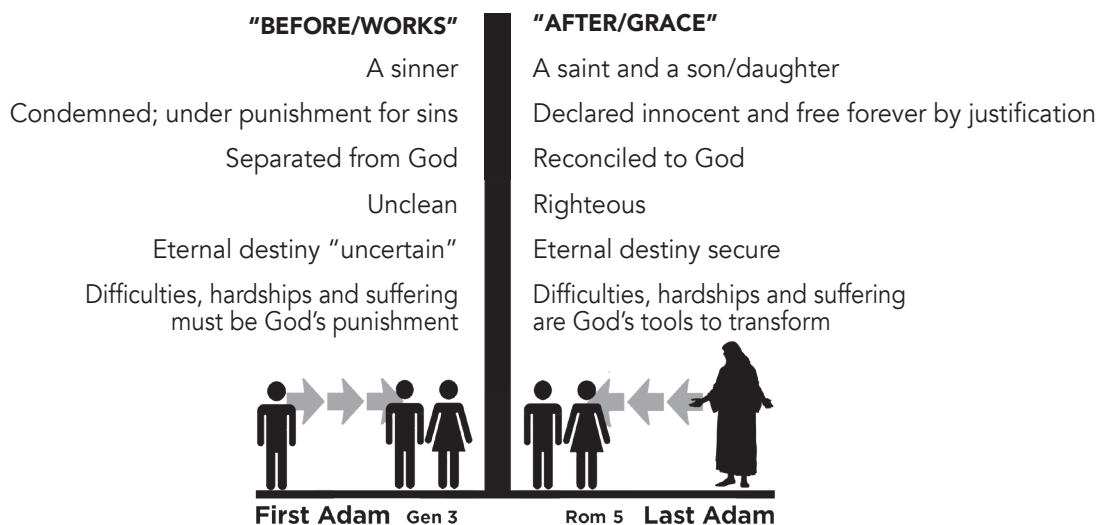
They enjoy a new *security* in God (5:5-21)

Because of God's *love* for them as seen through Christ (vv. 5b-8)

Because of God's *work* for them as seen through Christ (vv. 9-11)

Because of Christ's *accomplishments* for His Own (vv. 12-21)

*It's easier to keep a friend than to save an enemy*



New position: as justified through Christ's finished work; live forever in God's grace

New relationship: new relationship with God based on His grace, not based on our performance

We enjoy a new *standing* before God

We enjoy a new *security* in God

We are men and women **made** new and **kept** new **by Him**

*Application:* As a result, in the "Promised Land" there's freedom from spiritual bookkeeping

### "Egypt" v. The "Promised Land"

Bookkeeping mindset (Adam/"Egypt")

IF I do this, THEN that will be the result

IF I behave rightly, THEN I'll be accepted and loved

The bookkeeping mindset assumes everything is given or taken on a *conditional* basis

Grace mindset (Christ/"Promised Land")

SINCE this is true, THEN that is the result

SINCE I am accepted and loved, THEN I can behave in a way that reflects those truths

"EGYPT"	"THE PROMISED LAND"
A relative sinner	A saint and a son/daughter
God's acceptance is conditional	God's acceptance is full, complete and forever
The "do" of ceaseless works	The "done" of grace
Self-effort	Done through Holy Spirit
Difficulties, hardships and suffering must be God's punishment	Difficulties, hardships and suffering are God's tools to transform
Try harder	Empowered by the Spirit

## Spiritual Bookkeeping

Potential signs of spiritual bookkeeping ...

Do I always need to look like I have it all together?

Do I ever choose not to speak the truth in love to someone because of what he/she (or others?) might think of me afterward?

Do I spend lots of time trying to please people?

Do I ever feel God is withholding some good thing from me until I perform better?

Do I avoid addressing sin for fear of "whacking?"

How do I feel about myself when I hear whispers from the enemy about my past shortcomings ... or even failures?

Can I celebrate another's "win" without jealousy?

Does my spiritual temperature rise or fall depending on the amount of affirmation I get?

Do I feel unworthy of God's love?

Bookkeeping keeps me in the "Wilderness"

## "Cross The River"

According to Romans 5: God has ...

Brought us into a *position* we didn't deserve

Given us a *standing* of full acceptance we couldn't have earned

Joined us into a *relationship* with Himself we couldn't have started

Ensured that we'll be kept *secure* no matter what

No condemnation!

Romans 8:1

## Live In The "Promised Land"

Where ...

No uncertainty, no fear, no hiding from the light

God will never shame me or humiliate me

No scolding will come from His mouth

No punishment will come from His hand

He's never disappointed in me; never rejects me

I'm fully accepted

I'm secure

I have His help

## Living In The "Promised Land"

How does God see me—really?

As one He's justified

It begins in the mind (Rom 12:1-2)

We're *free* from having to perform for God or for others!

Accept it, count on it, stand on it, rest in it

Begin every day with this truth

We walk according to this truth in faith (Gal 2:20)

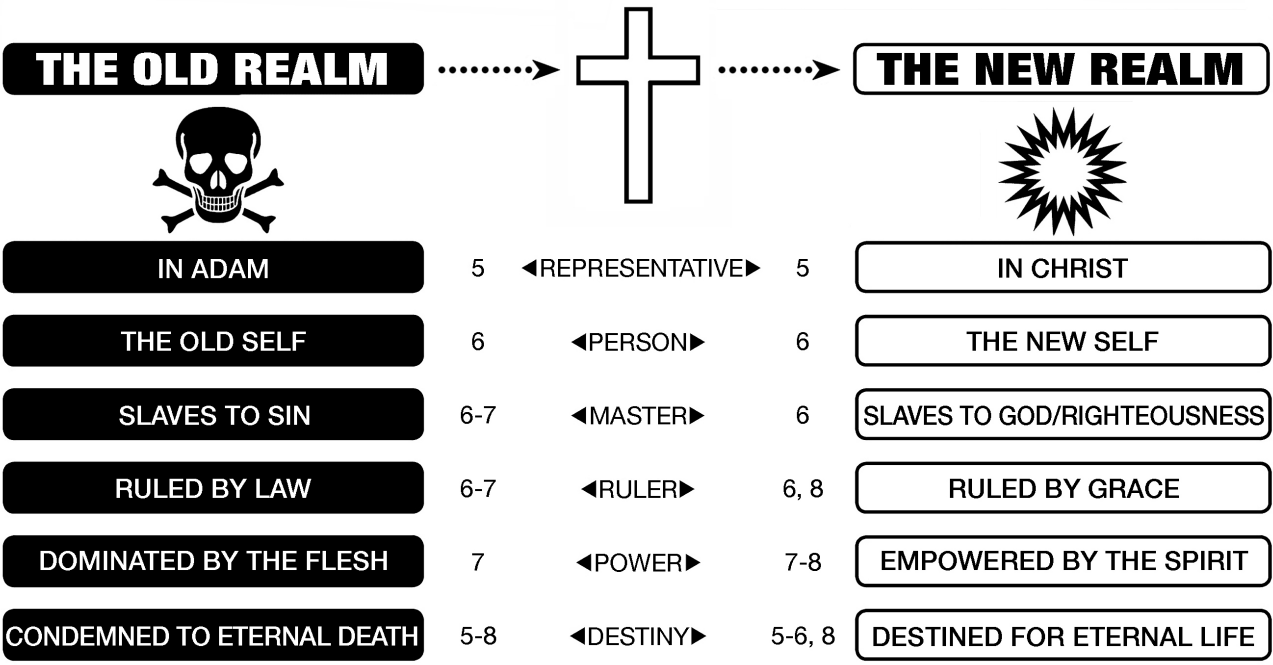
**FOR NEXT TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE TWO REALMS: ROMANS 5-8



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