

Adult Bible Discovery- June 21, 2020

This study has been designed for you to do on your own or with the members of your family.

Martin Luther said of St. Paul's letter to the Romans, *"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes."* It was while teaching this portion of Scripture to his students in Wittenberg that Luther read with fresh eyes that God justifies through faith and it was as if, *"the gates of heaven flung wide open."*

Starter Questions:

What is your favorite courtroom drama (big screen or little) of all time and why?

What is your favorite courtroom scene of all time and why?

Have you ever been in an actual courtroom as a plaintiff, defendant, juror, other?

Share about that experience.

Read Romans 5:1-21

In Romans chapter 5 we enter "the courtroom of heaven" so to speak. The judge of heaven and earth makes a case against us. Read vs. 12 a few times. Notice there is no question, or exception; for that matter there is no description or investigation. This wouldn't cut mustard in any drama, let alone in any earthly courtroom. Yet, He who sits at the eternal bench, simply states the fact: *"all have sinned."* There is no escaping, no denying, no pleading out...and St. Paul will, in the next chapter, reveal sins sentence.

Look at Romans 6:23

- What is the sentence of sin?
- Is that sentence physical, spiritual, eternal?

Look at Romans 5:15-16

- Why do you think Paul compares and contrasts Adam and Jesus in these verses?
- What is the significance of Adam's act and Jesus's?

Look at Romans 5:17

- Paul also juxtaposes "gift" with "trespass."
- What comes to mind when you hear the term "trespass" or "trespassing"?
- What comes to mind when you when hear the term "gift"?
- How are these words to be contrasted/compared?

Look at Romans 5:18-19

- Justification is a legal declaration that one is righteous before God.
- What is the basis of our Justification?
- Justification results in Reconciliation.
- With whom have we been reconciled?

- Do you feel as if people are striving these days to be reconciled or 'rent asunder' in their relationships? Both?
- Paul states that Adam's disobedience has been repeated and multiplied in all of his descendants. EVERYONE has sinned and deserves only death. By His death Jesus has won salvation for all people. Why is it only some are saved?

Occupy your mind with these thoughts this week:

- What comes to mind, what feelings are stirred when you hear the evidence that we are by nature (FALLEN NATURE that is) enemies of God? (see vs. 10)
- In these days, when people find themselves in opposite adversarial camps, what comes to mind, what feelings are stirred to hear the evidence that ALL people are equally and fully loved by God, and that there is NO ONE for whom Jesus didn't die? (see vs. 15)
- What comes to mind about our response to this truth?
- What does this say about how are we to live?